

THE TIMES
TOMORROW

Learning...
Why Procter & Gamble, long considered to be marketing wizards, are having to change their ideas.

Reading...
On the Books Page, Professor Glyn Daniel recalls the bombs that missed in the Second World War.

Writing...
The subject of The Times Profile, by Malcolm Bradbury, is Sir Angus Wilson, 70 tomorrow.

Arithmetic...
Trade union boss Alan Sapper explains why one and one should not make two in the Labour Party leadership.

Geography...
Robert Fisk reports from Syria on President Assad's view of the Middle East conflict.

Nature study...
We follow the latest trail left by the Loch Ness monster.

In preparation...
A detailed report of what new Prime Minister Bettino Craxi has in store for Italy.

...for a Test
Preview of the third Test Match between England and New Zealand, with the series at one all.

Gaddafi
napalms
Chad town

Libyan fighter-bombers resumed their assault on Chad Government positions in the desert outpost of Faya-Largeau, pounding the area with bombs and napalm, but striking mostly residential buildings and causing extensive civilian casualties.

Smoke deaths

Two people were killed yesterday when their car was involved in collision with a lorry and a chemical tanker after burning farm stubble formed a wall of smoke across the A19 near Thirsk, north Yorkshire.

TV damages

An American woman television presenter aged 37, has won £330,000 damages after losing her job because her boss thought her "too old and too unattractive".

Tax hits 40%

Taxes in Britain have risen more sharply than those in any other leading industrial country in the last two years. They increased from 36 to 40 per cent of the national income.

Poll cliff-hanger

Nigeria's presidential election appeared to be turning into a cliff-hanger when new results showed President Shagari recouping early losses.

Price boom

American buyers have helped to push up the prices of luxury London houses by more than 20 per cent since the autumn.

Racing inquiry

Jockey Club officials interviewed a jockey allegedly involved in a race-fixing circle and asked the public for help in its inquiries.

Fowler out

Andy Lloyd, the Warwickshire opening batsman, has been called into the England 12 for the third Test match against New Zealand as a replacement for Graeme Fowler.

Leader page 9

Letters: On hospital cuts, from Dr I W Glick and Mr D N Offen, and Mr D M Bernstein; radioactive waste, from the Director of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell; Bar enry, from Mr Rudy Narayan.

Leading articles: Alternative

medicine, Meteorological Office, World Council of Churches.

Feature, pages 6-8

Graham Scargant questions the Government's response to the dollar's surge; the battle for the Arctic; Fleet Street, preparing its own obituary; Spectrum: Time to shake to medicine.

Wednesday Page: How Annie

Glenn overcame her stammer; Joanna Lumley's Diary; The Times Cook.

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SDP and Liberal
leaders split on
candidate selection

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Clear differences have emerged at the top of the Liberal-Social Democratic Party Alliance over the way it should develop the deeper relationship agreed as an objective by Mr David Steel and Dr David Owen at their first talks soon after the general election.

The key division has come over the issue of the joint selection of parliamentary candidates by local members of both parties, which is understood to be supported by Mr Steel and opposed by Dr Owen.

Members of both parties agree that joint selection would be a logical and natural step in the way to an eventual merger, between them. Those opposed to a merger thus see it as the thin end of the wedge.

The Liberal leadership wants joint selection to be introduced in time for next June's European Assembly elections, which the Alliance regards as of crucial importance in its attempt to replace the Labour Party as the main opposition to the Government during the lifetime of the present Parliament.

The concept has already been backed, in relation to the European election, by the

Liberal Party Council, and the Liberal Party Assembly at Harrogate next month is expected by some leading party figures to recommend a speedy move towards joint selection for parliamentary elections.

Mr Steel drew attention soon after the election to the danger of the Liberal Party becoming a sterile organization in the half of the constituencies in the country which are fought by the SDP after the share-out of constituencies before the last election.

That difficulty would be met, it is argued, if the Liberals locally had a say in the election of the candidate.

Dr Owen, for his part, has put forward his own proposal to deal with the problems of the disenfranchising of members of one party in a constituency fought by the other. He believes that if the parties worked together on the basis of agreed groups of constituencies, along the lines of the SDP area parties, rather than constituency by constituency, Mr Steel's fears about local Liberal associations becoming sterile or moribund would be met.

He believes also that it would

start to get people used to the idea of groupings of constituencies for parliamentary elections, which would be a necessary part of the single transferable vote system of proportional representation recommended by the Alliance's joint commission on the constitution.

His proposal, however, has not been well received by the Liberal leadership, which points out that the party is very strongly constituency-based.

Merger-minded politicians in both parties believe, however, that grassroots opinion in favour of an "organic" or phased merger may well be moving ahead of the parties' national leaderships, and expect that to be reflected both at the Liberal assembly and at the Council for Social Democracy conference in Salford.

In many parts of Britain close working relationships have developed between the two parties, and in some places Alliance clubs are being formed. "One day the pressure for a merger may become irresistible whatever any of us in London think", an MP said yesterday.

Army accused of Belfast 'murder'
Man shot dead after
fracas with soldiers

From Richard Ford, Belfast

A teenager was shot dead by a soldier yesterday after a fracas with other members of an army foot patrol in West Belfast. Within hours of Thomas Reilly's death from a single shot near his home in the Turf Lodge area there was fresh rioting after a day in which there had been a "tense" atmosphere in the strongly republican area.

A eyewitness said there had been a commotion near the heavily guarded army base on the Springfield Road and the members of the foot patrol were holding one youth by the scruff of the neck.

He said another youth ran away and he heard a soldier say to a colleague: "Shoot the bastard, shoot the bastard." As the soldier pursued the youth he told him not to shoot - but the soldier went down on one knee and as the youth turned into an alcove he fired a single shot.

Police who went to the scene within minutes of the shooting at the junction of the Whitecourt and Springfield Roads were met by a crowd of hostile youths and others claiming the teenager had been murdered.

A woman who saw the youth fall said: "It was murder."



Thomas Reilly: death from a single shot

The area was cordoned off but later rioting began. A bus was set alight and a Post Office van hijacked, with petrol being attacked by youths wielding a pickaxe.

The shooting was in an area which saw some of the heaviest rioting to mark the twelfth anniversary of internment.

Mr Gerry Adams, Provisional Sinn Féin MP for West Belfast, said: "I condemn Britain for the cowardly murder of Thomas Reilly."

Noraid arrest, page 2

Guatemala coup leader
promises early election

From Martha Honey, Guatemala City

Rightist military commanders who carried out an efficiently executed coup on Monday quickly gained control in the capital and pledged to combat communism, hold elections and restore judicial processes.

After a night of sporadic gunfire, Guatemalans cautiously resumed their normal routines yesterday. Streets reopened and street vendors set out their colourful wares along the city's wide boulevards.

The whereabouts of ousted President Rios Montt, an erratic, born-again Protestant, who came to power in a military coup 17 months ago, remains unknown. He was last seen leaving the National Palace on Monday morning under military guard.

During brief resistance by palace guards loyal to General Rios Montt, five soldiers were reported to have been killed and 22 people, including some civilians, were injured.

Speaking from the National Palace after his swearing in on Monday afternoon, the new head of state, General Mejia Victorios, aged 53, declared "the

army has assumed responsibility for returning (the country) to democratic institutions".

In a seven-point address, General Mejia pledged to establish peace in the country by "combating Marxist-Leninist subversion" and "the paramilitary groups that may exist" and to restore the legal system by "suspending the special tribunals" which under General Rios Montt had tried people without judicial guarantees.

He said also that he would respect human rights, press freedom and the autonomy of the universities, all promises that General Rios Montt made when he took power - and then abused.

General Mejia said his government would schedule a firm date for elections.

● WASHINGTON:

The United States has been told by General Mejia that the hated special courts are to be eliminated and that he will continue the process of returning the country to democratic government, (Christopher Thomas writes).

Ortega's alert, page 4

Army wives' power, back page

Night-shift
workers
had secret
dormitory

Night-shift workers at the Plessey microchip factory at Swindon were sleeping on the job in secretly constructed bedrooms, an industrial tribunal in Bristol was told yesterday.

The sleeping compartments were carefully concealed in wall and ceiling cavities above air-conditioning units.

Each was equipped with mattresses, blankets, pillows, sheets, bedside lamps - and even alarm clocks, the factory's facilities manager, Mr Michael Hughes, told the tribunal.

The men's secret dormitory was only discovered when unexplained footprints appeared in the area, and electrical cables were exposed by outside contractors cleaning debris from the basement.

Mr Hughes said cables which disappeared into the basement ceiling apparently had no use. But further investigation revealed sliding hatches leading to the four bedrooms.

"Observations were made, and though no one was

Shouldn't you save some sleep for work?"



actually caught in bed it was obvious that maintenance personnel were sleeping on the night shift", he said.

After a senior management meeting it was decided that three foremen should be dismissed, Mr Hughes said.

The three Swindon men, Mr George Cooper, aged 52, of Cottingham, Mr John Tomlin, aged 49, of Green Meadow, and Mr Douglas Haigh, aged 39, of Eldene, claimed unfair dismissal.

Mr Hughes said that last October certain projects which should have been carried out at night were being left to the day shift. "Other departments said service personnel were difficult to locate during the night shift", he added.

Continued on back page, col 2

British Rail turns
in £5m profit

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

British Rail expects to break even this year after last year's £176m loss. In the first half of this year it made a profit of £5m compared with a £81m loss last year.

Announcing the figures yesterday Sir Peter Parker, who retires next month after seven years as chairman, said that British Rail was on an upward curve after last year's disastrous strikes.

Manpower costs had been cut by £250m a year, freight and passenger revenue were rising, and the forthcoming five-year plan was able to take a comfortable view of the future, Sir Peter said.

A "hit-man" was not needed to succeed him because the situation of the railways was not desperate he said at BR's Euston headquarters. Market share was down only 10 per cent, compared with 50 per cent for steel and "international mayhem" at British Airways.

The new chairman would be taking on a "sophisticated, difficult and really worthwhile job" he said. The Government could be having

Thatcher
prepares
to relax

Mrs Thatcher arriving at Downing Street yesterday before taking off for her summer break at a luxury Swiss chalet on Thursday or Friday.

It will be much more of a rest than last year's busman's holiday in Switzerland when she had important, but semi-official talks with monetarists.

This year, Mrs Thatcher will be relaxing and catching up on her reading in a private suite endowed with a fine library.

Nevertheless, the Prime Minister will be in constant touch with Downing Street, by specially installed telephone. Also official documents will be despatched from London and brought to her from Zurich airport by a consular official.

Mrs Thatcher will be staying with Lady Glover, widow of Colonel Sir Douglas Glover, who was Conservative MP for Ormskirk from 1953 to 1970 and died last year.

Lady Glover lives at Schloss Freudenberg on Lake Zug. It has a private yacht for lake trips.

Money
figures
soothe
the City

By Frances Williams, Economic Correspondent

Fears that the Government is contemplating tougher money and fiscal policies this autumn were allayed yesterday by publication of official figures showing a sharp slowdown in the pace of monetary growth and state borrowing last month.

Although the money supply and government spending are still running well above target, hopes are rising in the City that the Chancellor's emergency £1,000m spending cuts announced a month ago will be enough to bring them closer to plans without the need for more cuts or an increase in interest rates.

The Bank of England said yesterday that the most closely watched measure of money, sterling M3, rose by a provisional 0.75 per cent in the five weeks to mid-July, only half the 1.7 per cent surge in the June banking month.

Since February, when the present 7 to 11 per cent target period began, the money supply has grown by 14.5 per cent at an annual rate, but the slower pace of increasing in July, if continued for the remaining months, would bring M3 just inside the upper target limit.

Separate figures issued yesterday by the London clearing banks also suggest that bank lending has tailed off after a big jump in June. These calmed City worries that interest rates might have to go up to choke off excess private borrowing and keep the money supply within bounds.

When other banks are included, total lending may have amounted to about £500m last month, after soaring by £1,500m in June.

The City was also reassured by figures showing that central government borrowed only £930m in July, indicating that state finances are under better control than suggested by the £2,500m spent in borrowing the previous month.

In the first four months of the 1983-84 financial year, borrowing totalled £6,390m compared with £3,780m in the same period a year earlier, and a Budget forecast for the full year of £11,480m.

But of the £2,600m increase over last year, nearly £2,000m is due to increased lending to local authorities and state industries from the national loans fund.

Much of this lending is simply a substitute for borrowing from private sources and has no net effect on public sector borrowing overall.

But there are clear signs that spending by central government has been running substantially ahead of plans, up by 9.6 per cent so far this year compared with a Budget forecast of 5.6 per cent.

This rapid growth in state spending was the main factor underlying the Chancellor's measures last month.

Business News, page 13

Ed Moses
outpaces
his laces

Ed Moses of the United States, with one shoe-lace undone, scored his eighty-first consecutive victory, and while doing so put a clear second between himself and the rest of the field in the final of the 400 metres hurdles at the World Athletics Championships in Helsinki yesterday.

The last man to beat Moses was Harald Schmid, of West Germany. He did that six years ago, but never came near repeating it yesterday, finishing second place six metres behind.

For the British, it was a particularly British day of gallant failures. The 800 metres was an event in which Britain had hoped for a victory from Sebastian Coe, a hope ended by Coe's illness and withdrawal.

Peter Elliott ran for Britain in the final, and recorded a personal best time to finish in fourth place behind Willi Wulbeck of West Germany.

Judy Livermore, competing for Britain in the heptathlon, had a day of disaster in the javelin, failing to record a legitimate throw.

Report and results, page 16

Delays in
ordnance
sell-off

By John Winder

The Government's intention to privatize Britain's Royal Ordnance Factories is believed by some trade unions, whose 18,500 members work in them, to have run into so much opposition that it will be delayed even further.

The opponents are said to include some backbench Conservative MPs.

The trading fund accounts for the factories, published yesterday, show a surplus for the 1982-83 financial year of more than £87m, and the current cost surplus was about £55m.

The accounts contain a paragraph setting out the factories' future status which says: "Initially government ownership will continue but with the intention in due course of involving private capital directly, either through sale to the private sector, joint ventures, or flotation of shares."

One union official directly involved in negotiations over the factories sees that as restating the Government's original position without regard to negotiations since May last year when Sir John Nott, then Mr Nott, the Secretary of State for Defence, announced the Government's plans in a written Commons reply.

Some of the trade union representatives believe that there has been so much opposition to any privatization within the establishment of the Ministry of Defence, and among back-bench Conservative MPs, that ministers have delayed their plans.

The Government stated its intention to legislate this session (which ends in October, 1984) to introduce private finance into nationalized industries, including the Royal Ordnance Factories.

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Noraid members among 65 held as riots mark internment anniversary

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Sixty-five people, including a member of the Noraid delegation and an American were arrested in Northern Ireland yesterday after hours of rioting and petrol bombing marked the twentieth anniversary of internment.

The arrest of M. Stephen Lich, aged 23, the Noraid member, led Mr Nicholas Scott, Under Secretary of State at the Northern Ireland Office, to reject a request from the delegation to meet him.

Mr Scott said he was prepared to meet Noraid because the Government had nothing to hide in its running of the province. But a statement later said that he understood a member of the group had been charged with a criminal offence in connection with disturbances in Belfast and it would not be appropriate for him to receive Noraid.

Mr Lich, of Indianapolis, was charged with riotous behaviour after being held in the Clondara area of the city. He was remanded in custody until Thursday.

Mr Clifford Tighe, the United States Vice-Consul in Belfast, was making arrangements yesterday to visit Mr Lich in custody. But the United States Embassy in London said there was no question of its providing funds for Mr Lich's defence.

The rioting, in which five policemen were injured, affected seven towns, including Belfast and Londonderry. It came soon after Mr Charles Rodgers, the Royal Ulster Constabulary Deputy Chief Constable, said that the Provisional IRA was in turmoil with its ranks depleted by informers, and the bungling of recent operations.

The worst affected area was west Belfast where gangs of youths made makeshift street barricades, lit bonfires with the Union Jack on top, hijacked vehicles and, for two hours, mounted a sustained attack on New Barnsley police station.

Petrol bombs, bricks, and bottles were hurled at the security forces. Later the police described the area as "quiet".

A police inspector told Belfast magistrates as the first of those arrested appeared in court that the police had been prepared to allow the celebrations to go on unhindered as long as no attacks were made on the security forces. "It became apparent quite early on that attacks were being made, the worst at New Barnsley police station", he said.

Twenty rounds of plastic bullets were fired during the disturbances, which lasted until dawn and led to 39 arrests, including the Noraid member. Most of those held were accused of disorderly behaviour and possession of petrol bombs.

One youth, who received a six-month suspended prison sentence, had nine O levels and is studying to take A levels. Another who admitted riotous behaviour, told the magistrate that he had been "acting brave".

In Londonderry, 20 youths put up barricades in the Bogside area before a mob of one hundred attacked business premises and the security forces. Thirty-one plastic bullets were fired in efforts to disperse the crowd and seven people were arrested.

Elsewhere the police made 19 arrests after disturbances in Newry, Armagh, Downpatrick, Coalisland and Dungannon.

Mr Nicholas Scott: Ruled out meeting with Noraid.

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Police plea on killing of actor

A Photofit of a scruffy-dressed man seen near the home of Peter Arne, the actor who was killed on August 1, was issued by Scotland Yard yesterday.

The man, who appeared to have slept in his clothes, was seen several times that morning. He was first seen at about 8 a.m. and again at about 9.30 a.m. - soon after Mr Arne left his flat in Hans Place, Knightsbridge, west London.

The man was seen throughout the morning, between 8 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. - about the time Mr Arne returned by taxi.

Witnesses said that the man was about 30 years old, six feet tall, and "proportionately built".

The police said that he had a "European appearance", was well sun-tanned, had light-streaked curly hair, a full beard and moustache.

When first seen he was wearing a crumpled khaki or olive green anorak and trousers, or a safari suit. He wore a light coloured shirt and had a rucksack on his back.

Scotland Yard said, however, that during the morning, he may have changed. A man with a similar description was seen wearing a dark navy blue suit and the same type of khaki jacket.

Detectives also want to hear from anyone in the Hans Place area at any time on Monday last week.



Photofit issued by Scotland Yard.

Police seek skid driver in hunt for girl's killer

Caroline Hogg's killer may have been seen with her by an angry motorist the night she disappeared.

The encounter was near the Scottish border town of Coldstream, where 11-year-old Susan Maxwell was snatched last year.

Detectives, who think the same man may have murdered five-year-old Caroline Hogg and Susan Maxwell, told yesterday's Edinburgh press conference about the encounter of July 8.

A light-blue Ford, probably a Cortina, skidded as it overtook another car and stopped alongside a Ford Escort which had been forced to stop by the skid.

"The Escort driver argued with the blue car's driver and noticed a young girl, fitting Caroline's description, with bunches in her hair, standing behind the front seats. The girl appeared to be 'very frightened', police said.

The blue car driver's description was "roughly similar" to descriptions of a man seen with Caroline at a funeral in Portobello, Edinburgh.

Yesterday police described the Coldstream incident of July 8 as "significant".

Mr Hector Clark, Assistant Chief Constable of Northumbria, who heads the investigation into both murders said: "The driver of the Escort said he was particularly struck by the girl's large eyes, which were a feature of Caroline, and that she appeared to be frightened."

Caroline Hogg was buried yesterday at Farnhill Cemetery, Edinburgh. The service was private, at her parents' request. The only non-family mourners were Mr Clark and Det Chief Insp John Henry.

7% inflation by next spring, union says

By our Labour Editor

Inflation is rising steadily and will reach an annual rate of 7 per cent next spring, while unemployment continues to increase at a rate of 25,000 a month, the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS) said yesterday.

In its quarterly economic review, the union argues: "Inflation has now hit bottom. The experience of last summer, when prices were stable for four months, will not be repeated."

"We anticipate that prices will rise by, on average, 0.5 per cent a month for the rest of 1983, which implies a rise in the annual rate of inflation to 6 per cent by the end of the year and to 7 per cent in the spring of 1984."

Mr Clive Jenkins, general secretary of ASTMS, said yesterday at a press conference to introduce the report that rising US interest rates threatened to push up the British inflation rate even further.

The key determinants of government policy are proving to be the maintenance of a downward pressure on public expenditure, resistance to any new appreciation of the exchange rate and pressure for low interest rates insofar as these do not precipitate a substantial fall in the exchange rate.

The pound has already depreciated by 6 per cent this year, the review says, and a further downward shift is likely before 1984. But the appointment of Mr Nigel Lawson as Chancellor of the Exchequer is regarded as a sign that government policy will be more flexible.

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Journey's end: A burnt-out car which was hijacked in Falls Road on Monday night.

600,000 could get home grants

By Pat Healy

Up to 600,000 home owners depending on supplementary benefits could qualify for unlimited grants to meet the cost of redecorating the outside of their homes, after a test case fought by the Disability Alliance.

The case succeeded in persuading a supplementary benefits appeal tribunal that the law allows the full cost of external redecoration to be met, even when the individual has enough savings to pay. At present, the Department of Health and Social Security has no intention of intervening to prevent similar cases being heard.

The alliance, an umbrella group of all the main voluntary disability groups and professional bodies concerned with the handicapped, took up the case on behalf of a disabled man.

By the beginning of this year, his house was badly in need of exterior redecoration if major repairs were to be avoided. His disability meant he could not do the work himself, and he applied for help with the cost to social security officials.

They turned him down because he had enough savings over £300 to cover the cost, under a regulation specifying when help with repairs and maintenance should be given. But the alliance argued that another regulation, covering irregular housing costs and with no upper limit on the costs, should be used instead.

The tribunal agreed and awarded the man the full cost of his redecoration, without touching his savings.

He said that the "job gap" would grow to six million in the medium term and that the nation would eventually have fewer than 19 million economically active people. That prospect would compel the TUC to reappraise its economic policy.

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Bank anger over Christmas working

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Bank staff are angry about management instructions that they must work a full day on the last trading day before Christmas this year. They may take industrial action over the issue.

The London clearing banks have told union leaders of 223,000 employees that Friday, December 23, will be a normal working day and the announcement has met with a storm of protest.

Counterpoint, the journal of the National Westminster Staff Association, reported yesterday, a flood of telephone calls and letters from irate members, a selection of which takes up the paper's entire back page.

For the past decade it has been customary for banks to close at noon on Christmas Eve (where it falls on a weekday) to allow staff to do last-minute shopping or go for a drink. City public houses are traditionally filled with bank workers taking more than they are accustomed to.

However, Counterpoint publishes a cartoon of an inebriated Christmas reveler complete with paper hat and balloon.

That course of action will be considered by leaders of the TUC-affiliated Banking, Insurance and Finance Union (BIFU) at a meeting in mid-September.

A BIFU spokesman described the management's move as "the half-day snitchback".

Scientists at Harwell, the atomic energy research establishment in Oxfordshire, have achieved the jeweller's dream of making diamonds grow.

The technique, which is still at an early experimental stage, involves firing carbon atoms from a high-energy particle accelerator into an existing diamond crystal. If it is heated to 800 deg C, the diamond, which is a form of pure carbon, incorporates the new atoms in its structure.

Harwell researchers have produced enough growth to detect a ridge when a finger is rubbed against the crystal and they say that there is no reason in principle why large gem-quality stones should not be built up from tiny crystals.

Three armed men escaped with £70,000 after holding five members of staff hostage in a raid on the Co-operative Bank in Southampton Row, central London, yesterday.

The bank employees, who were uninjured, were gagged and handcuffed by the hooded robbers as they arrived for work at 8.30 a.m. The gang rifled safes and escaped before the alarm was raised. Crowds watched as the police mantrance covered the bank entrance.

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Argentine intrusions dangerous

By Philip Webster

Argentine air and sea intrusions into the Falklands exclusion zone in the past week were "provocative and dangerous", Mr Raymond Whitney, Under-Secretary of State, Foreign Office, said yesterday.

The incidents, two involving Argentine trawlers and one an Electra aircraft, could be a "public relations exercise" organized with an eye on the imminent United Nations debate on the Falklands, he said.

"At the end of the day we are determined to protect the Falkland Islands. The Argentines are aware of that and if necessary we shall take military action. That is why this sort of thing is very dangerous."

The incidents were "likely to make the situation worse rather than better", the minister, speaking in BBC Radio, said. Britain's anger at the territorial intrusions would be signalled to the military junta in Buenos Aires.

"We have no formal relations, but we will certainly make clear to them that this is to put it mildly, not helpful."

Mr Whitney said there was no question of a restoration of normal relations until the Argentine Government had declared an end to hostilities.

"We insist on that, and we are determined to protect the zone. We are watching things carefully," he added.

Young alcoholics in jails might be given drink to teach them moderation, eight psychologists in the prison service have suggested.

The idea comes after a survey by Dr Clive Hollin, of Leicester University, one of their former colleagues when in the prison service, showed that about a third of young offenders in four prison establishments had drink problems, of whom between 5 and 8 per cent could be clinically defined as alcoholics.

He said yesterday that the technique of teaching controlled drinking was reported by researchers to have a high success rate. The idea would be for young offenders assessed as having a drink problem to volunteer for clinical tests.

They might be asked to pay a token amount for alcohol then be watched to see how much they would drink if left to themselves. One way of learning greater control would be for them to drink more slowly smaller amounts and not refill glasses so quickly.

"If we can control their drinking problem we may be able to control their criminal behaviour, which is linked with it. A lot of young offenders will break into houses to steal money for drinks", Mr Hollin said.

Jockey interviewed after allegations of big race-fixing racket

By Richard Evans

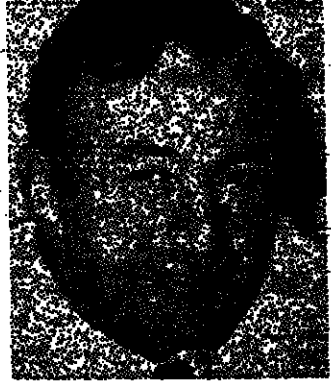
The first of 15 jockeys allegedly involved in a race-fixing racket was interviewed yesterday by Jockey Club security chiefs.

The rider, aged 23, who is retained by a top trainer, spent nearly four hours at the Jockey Club headquarters in Portman Square, central London, before leaving by a back door.

Last night the head of Racecourse Security Services (RSS), the club's own police force, appealed to the public to help its investigation into claims that the 15 jockeys received up to £1,000 a race for fixing the results.

Mr Peter Smiles, director of RSS, said: "We have received information from several sources containing allegations about certain races. We are pursuing inquiries and are interviewing several people connected with racing."

"The proper authorities will be informed of any suspected offence, either of a criminal nature or a breach of the rules



Mr Peter Smiles: Appeal for public's help.

of racing, should they be discovered."

"Our inquiries are expected to last for several weeks. We would appreciate any information, however trivial, which would assist in our inquiries."

The investigation mounted by Mr Smiles is one of the biggest in racing history. It will centre on claims that a classic-winning jockey was paid £6,000 to take part in crooked races; that another leading rider was given cash and gifts for his daughter; that a senior jockey received £1,200 worth of garden machinery; and that a promising young jockey has regularly accepted bribes.

The security chief has been given the name of a Derbyshire gambler who has been described as the coordinator of the race-fixing operation. He allegedly paid the jockeys up to £1,000 a time to fix races.

The allegations come after an investigation by *The Sun* which was passed on to the Jockey Club. A club spokesman said yesterday they were being treated extremely seriously.

If any of the jockeys are found to have fixed races the penalty is likely to be life disqualification from riding as well as criminal proceedings.

US buyers top luxury homes list in London

By Baron Phillips
Property Correspondent

American expatriates have replaced Arabs as the main buyers of luxury homes in London, and have helped to push that market up by at least a fifth since last autumn, according to a leading estate agent.

Mr Nicholas Couper, a partner in the firm Savills, said yesterday: "The prime reason must, of course, be the return of confidence in the London Stock Exchange, which has increased some 30 per cent in the same period, and the general increase in confidence on the economic front, although this is still somewhat fragile."

Prices were given a boost earlier in the year when there was an acute shortage of good-size family homes in popular central London locations such as Knightsbridge, south Kensington, and Chelsea.

At the top end of the market, roughly anything over £250,000, foreign buyers have kept estate agents busy and prices buoyant over the past 10 months.

Last autumn the market was dominated by buyers from the Middle East, West Africa (Nigeria in particular), and the Far East, especially Hongkong and Singapore.

The steadily weakening of sterling against the dollar has tempted leading United States banks and financial institutions to buy homes for their executives rather than rent houses and flats, which can cost anything between £1,000 and £2,000 a week.

Apart from businessmen based in London, demand has been apparent from foreign buyers keen to invest in the international property market. Buyers who moved to Paris and New York after the last big prices boom are finding their way back to London, Savills say. One reason for that is stability on the streets and in central Government.

Property, page 21



On view: A portrait of the Prince of Wales by Ben Rubbra, one of 60 contemporary portraits on exhibition until August 26 at the King Street Galleries in south-west London (Photograph: David Cairns).

Callers to Met Office 'should pay £3'

By Clive Cookson
Technology Correspondent

The Meteorological Office should charge the public £3 for every telephone call to a forecaster at a weather centre, a government report recommends. Such calls are free at present.

A joint team from the Management and Personnel Office and the Ministry of Defence has reviewed the Meteorological Office as part of the government efficiency programme.

The report praises the Meteorological Office's services and its international pre-eminence but says users must contribute much more to the costs.

Answering 1,500,000 telephone calls a year from the public costs £5.2m, the report estimates. Every weather centre has a listed number giving direct access to a forecaster, and meteorological staff at many airfields, when available, also give free forecasts to callers.

Businesses are supposed to subscribe to the Meteorological Office's paying services, but about a third of the free calls are for business purposes - the service is abused, for example, by builders posing as ordinary members of the public.

The report says most public needs could be met by the recorded forecasts on the Automatic Telephone Weather Service or through radio and television bulletins.

Under the scheme proposed, a caller would give the forecaster his name and address, and a standard invoice would be mailed to him. Chasing unpaid debts would be uneconomic, the report concedes, and the system would rely on the honour of its customers.

The West German weather service successfully operates a similar system, charging callers 10 marks each.

Leading article, page 9

Coaches 'beating British Rail'

Railway watchdogs have been travelling by bus to assess the competition for inter-city travel. Their verdict is that the traditional slogan "It's quicker by train" is not always true and even the bus coffee is cheaper.

Members of the Yorkshire Area Transport Users Committee yesterday issued a report on their survey of train and coach travel. It concludes: "British Rail must improve the quality of its inter-city services if they are to combat the challenge of the coach on long-distance routes."

The committee established that the factors which influence passengers to choose train or coach were price, journey-time, comfort facilities, and personal preference.

A check on prices showed that almost all fares from Yorkshire were cheaper by coach than by train, although a new £7.50 day return from Leeds to Carlisle introduced a fortnight ago by British Rail, is 27 per cent less than the coach fare. Journey times vary with the time of day.

A comparison on 17 routes showed that on five it was quicker by coach. It takes 50 minutes from Leeds to Sheffield in the morning by coach and the corresponding train takes one hour 23 minutes.

A spot check during May, June, and July showed that 83 per cent of inter-city trains ran within 10 minutes of the advertised time but 3 per cent were more than 30 minutes late. Coach journey times quoted by National Express were generally realistic, but some coaches ran late.

Train passengers usually have wider seats, more leg room and more space for luggage. Only a few long-distance coaches have lavatories. Catering was more limited on coaches, but a cup of coffee cost only 25p, compared with 31p on a train.

Mr James Towler, chairman of the committee, said they had found many coach passengers who used to travel by train but had deserted the railways. Most had been attracted by lower journey costs.

He added: "It is important that British Rail should provide the quality of the service necessary to sustain the price differential."

Computers to try a marathon

The London Computer Marathon, a seven-day test of microcomputer speed and reliability, starts today.

Six rival business microcomputers will be running the same repetitive program, sorting and resorting large amounts of data, under the scrutiny of referees who will count the number of times each machine breaks down and the number of times the program is completed.

The event was sponsored by Micro Networks, British distributor of the Japanese-made Samurai S-16, in an attempt to prove its superior reliability.

According to the company, only four other manufacturers or distributors accepted the challenge to race against the Samurai: two foreign companies (Olivetti of Italy and Wang of the United States) and two British (Comart and LSI).

Open verdict on bridge fall man

An open verdict was returned yesterday on Mr Graham Wood, a solicitor, who fell 200 feet from the Clifton Suspension Bridge in Bristol last Wednesday.

Mr Donald Hawkins, the city coroner, said that he was not satisfied that Mr Wood, aged 35, who had been practising at Gillingham, Dorset, had intended to take his life. Mr Wood died from multiple injuries.

Passengers hurt in bus smash

Four passengers were treated for shock yesterday after a bus driver took a wrong turn and jammed his double decker under a low railway bridge in Gilebe Street, Stoke-on-Trent. The impact ripped off two thirds of the upper deck.

Cat cleared

Veterinary surgeons are sure that a cat brought into Britain from Holland and now in quarantine at Penrith, Cumbria, does not have rabies, the Ministry of Agriculture said yesterday.

Microcomputer-designed for medical workers

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

Nurses, doctors and health visitors are being wooed by British Telecom, which has designed a microcomputer for the medical profession.

The system, which will be launched next spring, is called Chain (Community Health Advanced Information Network). It is being made by Acorn, the manufacturers of the BBC microcomputer.

In the coming months Merlin, British Telecom's business group, will be trying to persuade local health authorities to buy the equipment and link it to their central computer systems. Then nurses or health visitors will be able to have displayed messages that relate to them or their patients. The system has been designed to interface with Prestel, the videotext system of British Telecom.

The device is the result of research which convinced the corporation that there was an untapped market. The corporation found that 48 per cent of health visitors' time and 28 per cent of district nurses' time was taken up with non-clinical work.

British Telecom says the system will "help clinical staff to have more time for their clinical duties".

The system will cost about £1,000, although it can also be leased.

Acorn which won the contract on open tender, has manufactured more than 140,000 BBC microcomputers. This month it will launch a new home computer, the Electron, which is expected to sell for about £200.

All-music TV channel to start next year

By Bill Johnstone
Electronics Correspondent

An 11-hour music television channel is to be launched via cable in Britain next year a consortium led by Virgin records.

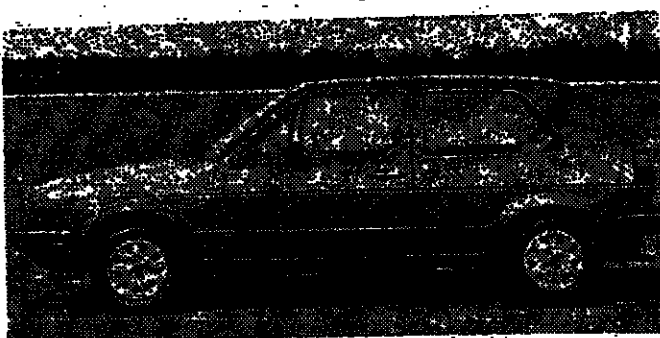
The channel of popular and light music will eventually operate 24 hours a day.

The first venture of Cable Music will be an hour of popular music beamed by satellite across Europe from September 11 on Satellite Television.

The satellite company is now broadcasting on the European Orbital Test Satellite (OTS) but from next January it will use ECS-1 the new European satellite, to transmit its programmes into Britain.

Satellite Television, which is 65 per cent owned by News International, which owns *Times Newspapers*, *The Sun* and *The News of the World*, will from January 1 broadcast a channel offering a five hour selection of news, sport, music and light entertainment.

Golf challenge to Japan



Volkswagen has invested £500m in a new "robot factory" to manufacture the successor to its best-selling golf range (above). It is claimed to be the first factory in Europe to challenge Japan's leadership in automated car production (Our Motoring Correspondent writes).

The West German company appears to have made a great improvement in the final assembly stage, where until now it has proved impossible to develop robots capable of performing the hundreds of intricate movements necessary to install equipment and trim.

The new Golf is on a par with the Ford Sierra as one of the most aerodynamically efficient cars in production. It is also longer and wider, which has enabled the company to increase the space for back-seat passengers and luggage.

Petrol consumption for its new 1.3 litre engine is 20 per cent better than the 1.1 litre unit it replaces.

The new Golf will not be on sale in Britain until March, although it will be available in Germany in the autumn.

Pensioners go to college

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Old and retired people are flocking to join 24-year groups in London to study art, English, history, French, psychology, and politics at the new University of the Third Age (U3A). The 260 members who are responsible for their own teaching and learning, do not receive degrees.

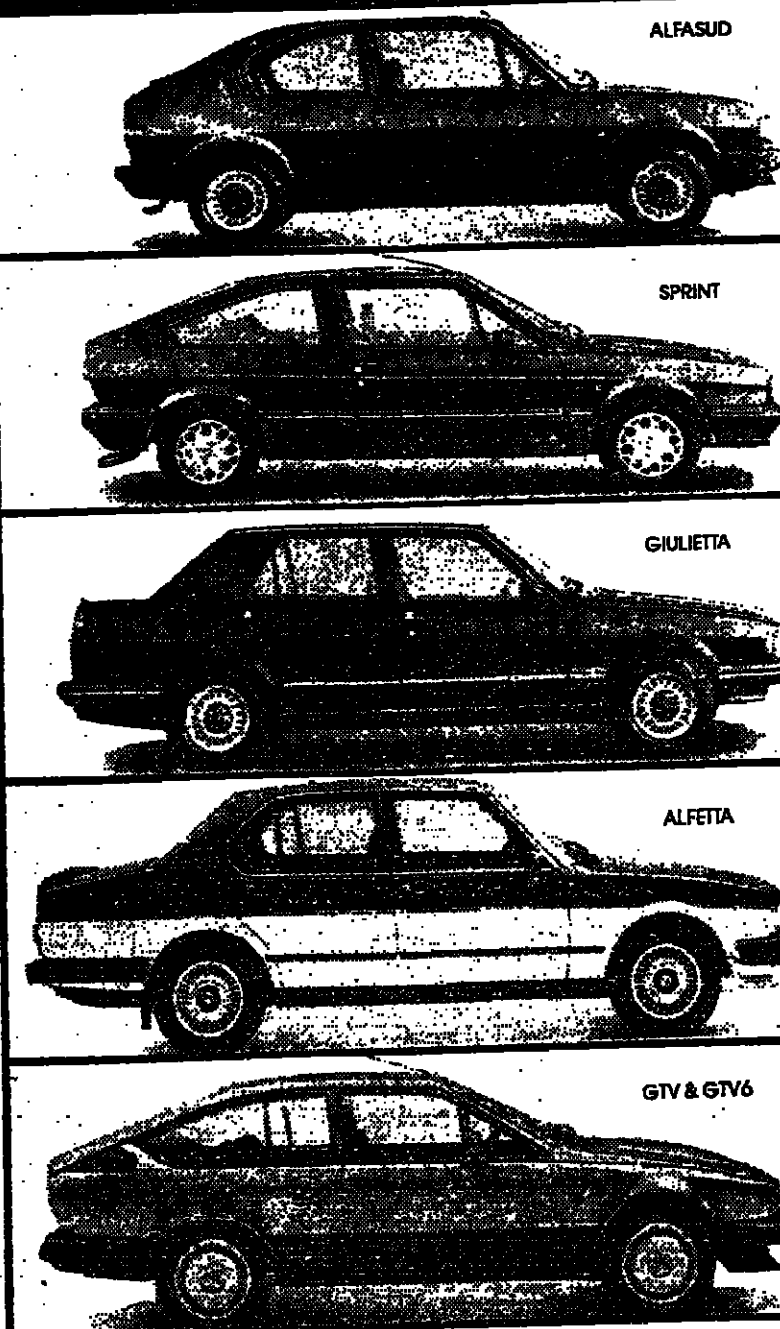
"Our use of the word university is not that of current usage," Dr Sidney Jones, USA's academic administrator and head of the education department at the Polytechnic of North London said. "We are harking back to medieval times."

Based in London University's Department of Extra-mural Studies, the university is being supported by institutions interested in offering courses for its students. So far the Courtauld Institute, King's College, Thames Polytechnic, the polytechnics of North and Central London, Kingsway, Princeton College, and three adult education institutes have said they want an association.

Modelled on the French *Université de Troisième Age*, of which there are more than 60 in France, the development is important socially and educationally, according to Dr Jones.



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Libyan warplanes pound Chad desert post with bombs and napalm

Ndjamena (AP) - Two Soviet-built fighter bombers of the Libyan Air Force resumed intensive attacks on Chad Government positions in and around Faya-Largeau shortly after dawn yesterday.

Mr Sumaila Mahamat, the information minister, said that the Libyans dropped 500lb fragmentation and napalm bombs on the desert outpost 500 miles north of Ndjamena, the capital, again striking mostly residential areas and causing extensive civilian casualties.

Mr Sumaila said several hundred of Faya-Largeau's 7,000 civilian inhabitants had died in almost continuous Libyan air attacks since government forces recaptured the oasis from Libyan-backed rebels on July 30.

The Libyan attacks resumed on Monday after a weekend lull. Mr Sumaila said the Libyans swooped over the oasis in three separate waves during the day but caused only insignificant damage to government positions.

Western diplomatic sources, requesting anonymity, said intelligence reports confirmed heavy Libyan air attacks on Faya-Largeau on Monday and Tuesday.

Libya has repeatedly denied that its Air Force or ground forces are involved in the fighting in Chad, although it recognizes the rebels as Chad's "only legitimate government".

The Chadians presented a Libyan air force major shot down over Faya-Largeau to reporters and diplomats on Monday and several of the diplomats said he was undoubtedly genuine.

However, Libya maintains the pilot has been a prisoner of President Hissene Habré for

two years before he seized power and was captured when Libya sent troops to Chad to back up the then government of President Goukouni Quedde, who leads the insurgents in the north.

Mr Sumaila flatly denied the pilot was captured two years ago, saying his aircraft was shot down on Friday. Top diplomatic sources have said the pilot has given extensive details on Libyan air operations in the north to Western intelligence officers.

Diplomatic sources said the estimated 2,000 government troops who recaptured Faya-Largeau from the rebels are now confronted by an equal number of Libyan ground forces equipped with sophisticated Soviet-supplied weaponry.

If the Libyans had not intervened, one diplomat said, "the government forces would have wiped out the rebels by now and easily reached the Libyan border."

Libya's internationally recognized border is some 220 miles north-east of Faya-Largeau, but a large part of the wilderness in Chad's extreme north was unilaterally annexed by the Libyan Government of Colonel Gaddafi in 1973.

The Chad Government of President Habré has refused to recognize the annexation and has demanded Libya's evacuation of all Chadian territory.

Mr Ahmed Koram, President Habré's Deputy Foreign Minister, was en route to New York to press Chad's complaint of Libyan "aggression" before the United Nations Security Council.

PARIS: France was standing firm last night in its determination not to send ground and air support to Chad, (Roger Beardwood writes). In the past

48 hours President Habré and the US Administration have increased their pressure on France to counter the forces of the Libyan-backed rebels.

M. Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, and M. Charles Hernu, the Defence Minister, have both said repeatedly that France will help Chad only within the framework of the 1976 military assistance agreement that permits France to provide material but not men. However, the accord does not bar France from sending troops if requested by the Chad Government.

President Habré is reported to have accused Paris of withholding support because of the influence of "pro-Libyan lobbyists", and named them as M. Guy Penne, President Mitterrand's adviser on African Affairs, and M. Guy Georgy, France's Ambassador in Algiers.

The Algerian Government has called on Chad and Libya to submit their differences to the Organisation of African Unity but President Habré is reported to have said that the "pro-Libyan lobbyists" were thinking in commercial terms and ignoring Libyan aggression.

WASHINGTON: President Reagan has told Congress that the two US airborne warning and control system (AWACS) surveillance aircraft sent to Sudan had been deployed there for a "limited" but undefined period to support Chad in its escalating fight against "Libyan aggression" (Mohsin Ali writes).

The President said in a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on Monday that the two unarmed AWACS and eight F-15 (Eagle) all-weather fighter aircraft with air and ground logistical support forces had begun to arrive in Sudan on Sunday.



Mighty oaks from little acorns grow



Family's 10-mile swim to sanctuary

Johannesburg - A Romanian family of four, including a 13-year-old boy, was reported yesterday to have swum nearly 10 miles from Mozambique to South Africa to escape from communism (Ray Kennedy writes).

They were found on a beach at Kosi Bay in Natal, opposite the Mozambican coastal village of Ponta do Oura, by a fishing party which included a judge. Mr Justice Mark Kimer said yesterday the father was a veterinary surgeon who had been planning for several years to escape to the West. He was given the chance to work in Mozambique and took his wife and two sons on leave to Ponta do Oura where they stayed for a week as holidaymakers before making their escape. They have been granted temporary asylum in South Africa.

Angola aid

Geneva (Reuters) - The United Nations children's fund said yesterday that it is providing about £260,000 for emergency assistance to some 600,000 Angolan victims of drought and civil disruption.

Criminal record

Washington (AFP) - America had a record prison population of 425,678 people behind bars at the end of March, the justice department has announced. Texas had the largest number with 37,370.

Glenn ill



Cardinal Józef Glemp, Primate of Poland, who was taken to hospital yesterday for a medical checkup for an undisclosed ailment. A spokesman said the condition was "not a grave one".

Cabinet sacked

Ouagadougou (Reuters) - Captain Thomas Sankara, who seized power in Upper Volta last week, has dismissed his predecessor's Cabinet and asked civil servants in each ministry to take temporary charge.

Volcano erupts

Jakarta (AP) - Six thousand people were evacuated from the slopes of the Gamalama volcano on the Indonesian island of Ternate after it erupted yesterday. There were no reports of casualties.

Release hope

Johannesburg (AFP) - Clive Sista, a British pilot arrested after landing his aircraft in Mozambique, in June, without permission, will probably be allowed to return to South Africa soon.

Oh Vienna!

Vienna (AP) - Most Austrians approve of the hot-weather habit of nude or topless bathing according to a survey. Of 1,000 people polled, 58 per cent approved.

Britons saved

Cherbourg (AFP) - Nine Britons were rescued by a French sea rescue team yesterday after their yacht ran aground on rocks when its navigation instruments failed.

Envoy's switch

Mr Charles Wallace, aged 57, is to be Britain's new Ambassador to Uruguay. He is at present Ambassador to Peru.

Red faces after pools scandal

By Roger Boyes

Concern about a Hungarian football pools scandal, involving alleged bribing of some 200 players and managers, has sent ripples of panic through the football establishments of Eastern Europe.

A top Hungarian club, Spartak Pleven has been expelled from the first division after corruption was discovered, and Poland has decided to announce publicly the transfer fees and earnings of its leading players in an attempt to dry up under-the-counter payments.

Members of a syndicate accused of fixing dozens of football matches last summer and thus manipulating the pools system, went on trial in Budapest this week.

Thirty-two syndicate members are accused of cheating the state-run pools of 27m florints (£450,000) while at a trial in the south Hungarian town of Szekesd 43 members comprising another syndicate are charged with winning the equivalent of about £113,000 illegally. Most of the players, managers and referees involved have been suspended from playing football for between five

and eight years, which effectively ends their careers.

Hungarian journalists who have been following the activities of the two syndicates claim that they won far more than is stated in the indictment by a complicated series of side-bets. The total booty could well be the equivalent of millions of pounds.

The scandal has prompted a clean-up campaign by the Hungarian sports authorities who have announced that from next year there will be no more state subsidies to clubs. Instead, football clubs will have to earn their own revenue from turnstile admission fees, from television contracts and proceeds of foreign tours. All end-of-season bonuses have been cancelled for this year.

Although the scandal directly involves only second-rank clubs - those that play during the summer while the first division goes on holiday - it is clear that top clubs are also involved. The Hungarian press has named six top clubs in which flagrant violations have been alleged. The Bulgarians have also seen the danger, especially in the

Slow haul to ocean graveyard

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Slowly but surely the bow section of the Spanish tanker, Castillo de Bellver, with at least 40,000 tons of oil in its tanks, is being towed towards what experts hope will be its final and undisturbed resting place well clear of the South African coast.

If all goes according to plan the tug John Ross, will reach a position sometime today about 100 miles west from where the tanker caught fire and broke up at the weekend.

There it will be scuttled in about 2,000 metres of water.

Captain Mike Garnett, technical director of the London-based Tavalop, the international tanker owners anti-pollution federation, said in Capetown yesterday that if the bow section could be sunk in a flat area of seabed, at that depth it should hold together and oil should not leak.

But oil has begun to leak again from the stern section which sank in 1,000 ft of water only 20 miles off the coast on Sunday.

Three coastguard vessels are continuing to spray tons of dispersant on the huge slick but much of the oil has now emulsified and is impervious to the chemicals. A south-easterly wind is, however, continuing to push the slick, slowly away from the coast and marine life and seabird breeding grounds.

Mr McClean has given up hope of reaching his home port of Falmouth. He sailed from St Johns, Newfoundland on June 8 making for Falmouth in his 78 9in boat, the Giltspur, but was driven far of his course by strong winds.

Mr McClean was in daily radio contact with Newfoundland during the crossing, and early last week he made contact with a ham radio operator in West Germany saying he could not make the English coast.

The Portuguese naval authorities have been alerted to the presence of Mr McClean in Portuguese waters and have advised all ships in the area to be on the look-out for him, but no formal sea search has been launched as he has not requested aid.

This is Mr McClean's second Atlantic crossing. In his first he sailed the Giltspur to Falmouth, but it was somewhat larger than it is now - across the Atlantic and set a record for the smallest boat only to have the record broken two weeks later by Bill Dunlop of the United States. Mr McClean then lopped 62 centimetres off the Giltspur and set sail again.

Vancouver clash over election of Protestant

Vancouver (Reuters) - The World Council of Churches discussed Christian unity after tensions flared at the weekend between Orthodox and Protestants delegates over elections to the council's governing central committee.

Orthodox delegates said that relations were strained after one of their middle East nominees for the 145-member committee, Mrs Frieda Haddad of the Antioch Patriarchate, was defeated by a Protestant on Saturday night by 400 votes to 251.

She had been proposed by the WCC leadership in an attempt to balance representation among the 300 Protestant, Anglican and Orthodox churches which belong to the ecumenical world group.

The 18-day assembly adopted a statement supporting moves for Christian unity, including the holding of a conference probably in 1987 aimed at resolving doctrinal differences.

Dissenting Orthodox Christians in the Soviet Union have appealed to the WCC for help in fighting religious persecution.

The appeals were contained in two messages - one from a dissident deacon of the Russian Orthodox Church and the other from the Christian Committee for the Defence of Believers' Rights in the Soviet Union.

Deacon Vladimir Rusak said that the Russian Church hierarchy was serving the interests of an atheistic regime "to the detriment of the church".

WCC officials acknowledged the messages but said that they could not be considered because normal procedures had not been followed.

Leading article, page 9

Hot line not hot enough

From Richard Owen, Moscow

A team of American officials leaves Moscow today for Washington after three days of top secret talks on improving the hot line between the Kremlin and the White House.

The talks have been kept a closely guarded affair, and the American Embassy in Moscow is remaining silent about both the content of the negotiations and the composition of the delegation.

It is understood, however, that the Reagan administration

Arabs flee from prison camp

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

The Israeli Army captured 10 out of 14 prisoners who broke out of the Ansar prison camp in southern Lebanon yesterday through what an Israeli spokesman described as "a hole in the fence".

Throughout the day, Israeli troops had been searching the wadis and wooded slopes around the camp - which perches on a bare hilltop south-east of Sidon - in an attempt to find the men.

An Israeli military spokesman failed to identify them or to say whether they were Palestinian or Lebanese. At Ansar, the Israelis are holding about 5,000 men, who do not

have prisoner-of-war status and who, the Israelis believe, may have been involved in the Palestine Liberation Organization. For much of the early hours yesterday, helicopters dropped flares over the camp, apparently in order to prevent further escapes.

Meanwhile in Beirut, the Phalangist Voice of Lebanon radio announced that the Lebanese Government might suspend the American-sponsored troop withdrawal agreement with Israel because of the latter's failure to give a timetable for the total pull-back of its forces from the country.

The radio station - which

represents the views of President Amin Gemayel's Phalangist party colleagues but does not necessarily reflect government thinking - said that while the security clauses in the agreement would remain valid, the rest of the pact, which includes assurances of mutual trade and communications, might be suspended.

This, the radio station claimed, might help to break the deadlock on the removal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. This apparent reference to Syria's refusal to withdraw came as Mr Robert McFarlane, President Reagan's envoy was flying back to Beirut

Israeli push to finish defence line

From Christopher Walker, Sidon

Fourteen months after invading Lebanon the Israeli Army has embarked on a £25m scheme of fortifications, improved roads and consolidation behind an ingeniously protected new front line 27 miles north of the international border. The set-up has given the Israeli occupation a new look of permanence.

This, combined with numerous facets of Israel's increasing domination of southern Lebanon, where the Army's civil assistance unit recently announced the start of a Hebrew course in the Holy Druze town of Hasbaya, has led many Israeli critics to dub the area the Begin government's "North Bank".

Despite repeated protestations by ministers that Israel has no intention of remaining on "one inch" of Lebanese soil, no one inside the Cabinet or out has been able to obtain any confidence the date when a situation will have been achieved which will enable the troops to leave.

"It will not be until we have secured a guarantee that the area will not be used again to attack Galilee," an officer said



Scores of bulldozers, dumper lorries and giant earth-moving machines have given parts of southern Lebanon the appearance of a vast construction site as the Army's engineering corps works with hundreds of specially-recruited Lebanese labourers to finish the project before winter rains begin.

A cloud of dust hangs for most of the day over the hillside north of the port city of Sidon, where a large Israeli fortress is being built out of the rock nearby, ground is being levelled for a helicopter pad and vehicle park.

Israel's influence over daily life is apparent everywhere from the shops, to the system of a Sidon, where every fishing boat has to be licensed by an Israeli officer.



Battle toll: Salvadoran soldiers recover the bodies of companions killed at Tejatepeque.

Nicaragua defence alert against US 'invasion'

Managua (Reuters) - The Nicaraguan leader Commander Daniel Ortega said yesterday that American troops landing in Honduras for manoeuvres could launch an attack against his country. Commander Ortega, chief of the governing junta, told reporters that Nicaragua was speedily preparing its troops to defend its territory inch by inch.

He spoke as a United States military task force landed in neighbouring Honduras to build barracks for the 5,000 American troops who will take part in the largest military exercises ever staged in the region.

Defending Nicaragua's rapid armed forces build-up with foreign weapons, he said: "We have the right to obtain arms from wherever. We are arming ourselves defensively and not to attack anybody." The danger of an invasion justified his government's secrecy about arms shipments, he added.

The United States Government has claimed that Moscow is stepping up arms shipments in ships bound for Managua, including the Alexander Litvinov, which docked in the Nicaraguan port of Corinto on Friday.

Asked if Soviet arms were on the ship, Commander Ortega said: "It is not a secret nor a crime that we are arming ourselves. It is our country's right. We don't see the need to

Hot line not hot enough

From Richard Owen, Moscow

A team of American officials leaves Moscow today for Washington after three days of top secret talks on improving the hot line between the Kremlin and the White House.

The talks have been kept a closely guarded affair, and the American Embassy in Moscow is remaining silent about both the content of the negotiations and the composition of the delegation.

It is understood, however, that the Reagan administration

is concerned about the possibility of a criminal misunderstanding between the American and Soviet presidents at a time when East-West relations are tense but contacts between the two superpowers are minimal.

The main purpose of the hot line is to avert an accidental nuclear exchange between Russia and the United States, but it can also be used as an instant Moscow-Washington channel of contact during other, less apocalyptic emergencies.

The appeals were contained in two messages - one from a dissident deacon of the Russian Orthodox Church and the other from the Christian Committee for the Defence of Believers' Rights in the Soviet Union.

Deacon Vladimir Rusak said that the Russian Church hierarchy was serving the interests of an atheistic regime "to the detriment of the church".

WCC officials acknowledged the messages but said that they could not be considered because normal procedures had not been followed.

Nigeria poll turns into cliff-hanger as Shagari recovers losses

Lagos (Reuters) - Nigeria's presidential election yesterday appeared to be turning into a cliff-hanger when a second batch of results showed President Shagari scoring some handsome gains to offset early losses.

With only six state results out of 19 declared it was still too early to predict the outcome, but a seesaw battle was clearly under way and excited Nigerians stayed close to their radios to pick up the latest developments.

In the first two results announced just after midnight, President Shagari, of the ruling National Party of Nigeria (NPN), saw his main rival, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, of the Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN), making inroads into his support.

But the latest batch of results showed President Shagari turning the tables on Chief Awolowo by snapping up 20 per cent in Ondo state, one of four western states dominated by the Yoruba tribe, the backbone of the UPN.

In the 1979 election, which ended 13 years of military rule, Mr Shagari managed to win only 4 per cent of the Ondo vote.

In Bauchi state, Mr Shagari picked up a 1.5 million votes, adding 20 per cent to the 62.5 per cent share of the poll he won in 1979. He also won over-

whelmingly in Abuja, the projected new national capital, where he took 127,000 votes against only 4,000 for his nearest rival.

Bauchi compensated for the 1.2 million votes which Chief Awolowo won in his home state of Ondo, but the UPN leader also managed to win 1.4 million votes in Ogun, despite dropping 17 per cent from his 1979 share.

According to incomplete returns, Chief Awolowo was also doing well in Bendel state, to the east of Lagos, where the NPN had hopes of a majority, and in Cross River, where the UPN had been expected to gain after a squabble within the NPN leadership.

In Lagos, another Awolowo stronghold, the UPN won nearly 1.4 million votes, over 83 per cent, while President Shagari marginally increased his share to 7.7 per cent.

The President also lost support in Niger state, dropping about 11 per cent. Here it was the candidate of the Nigerian People's Party (NPP), Mr Nnamdi Azikiwe, who gained, but there were no signs that his challenge to the two leading contenders would be serious.

According to sources at the Federal Electoral Commission (Fecodec), Mr Shagari was doing much better than expected in the eastern states of Imo and Anambra, the NPN strongholds

and the heartland of Mr Azikiwe's Ibo tribe.

Mr Azikiwe is one of two candidates who have filed legal actions against Fecodec's handling of the election, claiming widespread malpractices.

The Fecodec chairman, Mr Victor Ovie-Whiskey, said the NPP suit was not in the proper legal form, but he had launched an investigation into the allegations and promised justice would be done if they were found to be justified.

The other candidate who has complained is Mr Waziri Ibrahim, candidate of the Great Nigerian People's Party (GNPP), which has had big internal splits and lost ground in nearly all the results declared so far.

GNPP officials said Mr Ibrahim had started a court action against Fecodec but could give no more details.

They could not explain why the GNPP, alone of the six parties contesting the elections, was not endorsing the Fecodec announcements. Fecodec officials said they had no comment.

The News Agency of Nigeria reported from Sokoto state, Mr Shagari's home, in the north-west, that members of three parties, including the UPN and the NPP, had withdrawn their observers from the count in protest against the conduct of the election there.



Falklands duty: WRACS arriving in the islands get their first glimpse of Port Stanley. They are (from front): Privates Fiona Garrock, Marie Ferris, Lorraine Ewing, and Lance-Corporals Lorraine Sanderson and Anne Burman.

Kasparov wants Korchnoi match to be played

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Gary Kasparov, Russia's brilliant young chess grandmaster, said yesterday that his abandoned world championship semi-final match with Viktor Korchnoi should be played after all. He criticized the International Chess Federation (Fide) for awarding the match to Korchnoi by default last Saturday.

Neither Kasparov nor Masly Smyslov, the other Soviet semi-finalist, turned up for their matches. Kasparov had been due to meet Korchnoi in Pasadena, California, while

Smyslov was to play Zoltan Ribli off Hungary in Abu Dhabi.

The Soviet authorities who drew from both games, protesting that the Pasadena match should have been staged in Rotterdam and that Abu Dhabi was too hot for chess.

Chess sources said that Soviet officials objected to Soviet players facing Korchnoi, who defected from Russia in 1978, and had doubts about security arrangements for Kasparov in Pasadena, which is closed to Russian diplomats.

In a statement issued by Tass, Kasparov, who is aged 20, said he did not travel to Moscow last weekend as expected but remained at his home in Baku, in Azerbaijan. Contacted by telephone he said he did not believe that Anatoly Karpov, the reigning world champion, would recognise the validity of Fide's action or agree to meet either Korchnoi or Ribli to contest the championship. Asked if the crisis in world chess caused by the Soviet withdrawal could be resolved, Kasparov replied that this was "only the beginning".

In a separate statement, the Soviet Chess Federation said Mr Florencio Campomanes, Fides President, had acted unlawfully and had staged "an unworthy farce" at Pasadena. The Soviet federation said it would raise the matter at the next Fide congress in October and demand that the decision by Mr Campomanes should be reversed.

Black anger at removal of Zambian archbishop

Lusaka (AP) - Some Zambian Roman Catholics say the apparent forced resignation of Mr Emmanuel Milingo, the Archbishop of Lusaka, proves the church remains totally in the control of whites.

"This has proved clearly that it is a white man's church where the voice of the black man will never be heard", Mr Clemens Lewis, a Zambian Catholic said.

Interviews with about 10 other Catholics showed that nearly all were disappointed that Mr Milingo, who had been criticized for faith healing with witchdoctor overtones, had resigned. But there was no immediate evidence of any organized effort to break with the Vatican, as some Zambian Catholics had previously threatened.

There were fears in the Vatican that Mr Milingo's case could have serious repercussions in Zambia and among Africa's 30 million Catholics. The church's membership is growing faster on this continent than anywhere else, but it has been forced to deal with the problem of how much local culture to allow into religious services.

The Vatican announced at the weekend that Mr Milingo, ordered to Rome 16 months ago for medical tests, had resigned to take a post as a special delegate to the pontifical commission for migration and tourism.

Seychelles' dashed dreams

Tourist industry hit by political fears

The Seychelles' single official party won another term unchallenged in this week's Assembly elections. LESLIE PLOMER, recently in Victoria, looks at why after six years in power, economic success continues to elude the Government.

The Seychelles came as a shock to the British bank manager after two other postings in Africa.

"Those were basket countries. This is not. The leaders here are honourable people. They tell you what they are going to do, and then they do it. They keep agreements - they even pay back types of development loans which most governments never repay," he said.

In the socialist Government's view, too many Seychellois still sit under palm trees drinking toddy, but fundamentally the Seychelles, free of many intractable Third World World problems, works.

Administration is smooth, people make decisions and President Albert René, who seized power in 1977 promising corruption-free government, has kept his promise.

The grey marble flooring on one official's business establishment may resemble uncannily the facade on the new Central Bank building, but as a whole



Mr Morel: Consumption must slow down.

the Government probably rates as one of the cleanest in the world.

"There are probably some 'insurance policies', but by and large this is a very clean operation. Aid is spent quickly and efficiently" on projects as agreed, and American expert said.

Economic prospects are far from bright, however. Social programmes and wage increases of between 50 and 100 per cent in most sectors since 1977 are stretching public revenue to the danger line during a period of recession.

Compounding this, increased government intervention in an economy which is still mixed, has disturbed local and foreign private business interests, as has a continuing government programme of compulsory land acquisitions paid not in cash but in Seychelles bonds.

A brain drain of 1,600 emigrants a year continues, prompted partly by educational decline under the new state system which is tied to a policy of Third World cooperation that leaves the middle class

fearing that its children will end up not at Oxford but at a North Korean Poly.

Unsure of the Government's intentions, one of the worst affected sectors has been the crucial tourist industry. Accounting for 70 per cent of the country's foreign exchange earnings and 40 per cent of gross domestic product, this motor of development in the Seychelles has consistently faltered since the 1979 peak of 78,000 visitors. The number had plunged to 47,000 by last year reducing hotel occupancy to 38 per cent.

"At first the Government said: 'Tourism is the butter on our bread'. Now they see it is the bread", one hotelier said. A strong Government drive has brought a 17 per cent increase in arrivals in the first six months of this year, but with a bigger package-tour element the resulting revenue is 10 per cent below the 1982 level.

Political uncertainty has taken its toll on tourism, but so have high prices, with tourists often paying four-star rates for two-star or three-star service.

The Government blames managements for failing to train staff, and management blames the Government's full employment policy for foisting too many unqualified people into hotel service.

A government ceiling on hotel prices, now in its third year, has sent hotel capital running elsewhere for higher returns, leaving the Government to take over many hotels.

Overmanning in the public service and security forces also takes its toll on the Government itself. To meet commitments at home, government borrowing from the Central Bank has increased sharply from £2.8m in early 1982 to £6.1m in early 1983 - while the tourist slump has reduced foreign-exchange reserves to six weeks' supply.

The search for public funds has brought new income and trade taxes which together provide half the Government's revenue.

Ministers hope that improved tourism will give them breathing space to improve the country's grim export problems. But offshore oil exploration by Amoco and dreams of metallic nodules on the sea bed will take years to realize.

Meanwhile, the value and volume of copra, the main export, has dropped drastically, and high-technology fishing projects by European advisers have yet to succeed. Partly because Seychellois fishermen dislike staying at sea overnight.

"The priority is to slow consumption while we build tourism," Mr Guy Morel, Principal Secretary for Finance and Industry, told *The Times*. Indeed, imports early this year were down 30 per cent on early 1982. "But people will not accept this for long. Education and the lifestyle of tourists have given them expectations," he said.

Nagasaki remembers

Nagasaki (AP) - Amid tolling church bells, prayers for peace, and the arrival of an American nuclear-powered aircraft carrier nearby, Nagasaki yesterday marked the thirty-eighth anniversary of its destruction by an atomic bomb.

It was on August 9, 1945, that this port city, 614 miles southwest of Tokyo, was bombed, leaving an estimated 74,000 people dead or dying.

There were 20,000 people at the ceremony at a memorial park built at the explosion's hypocentre. They heard Mr Hitoshi Notojima, the Mayor of

Nagasaki, propose a peace mission be sent to the United States and the Soviet Union to break the mutual distrust between the two superpowers. There was a demand at the ceremony for a world nuclear arms ban.

There were protests, too, at the arrival at nearby Sasebo of the United States carrier Midway to unload arms.

● WASHINGTON: Anti-nuclear demonstrators were arrested after pouring a red liquid on the Pentagon steps to mark the Nagasaki anniversary.

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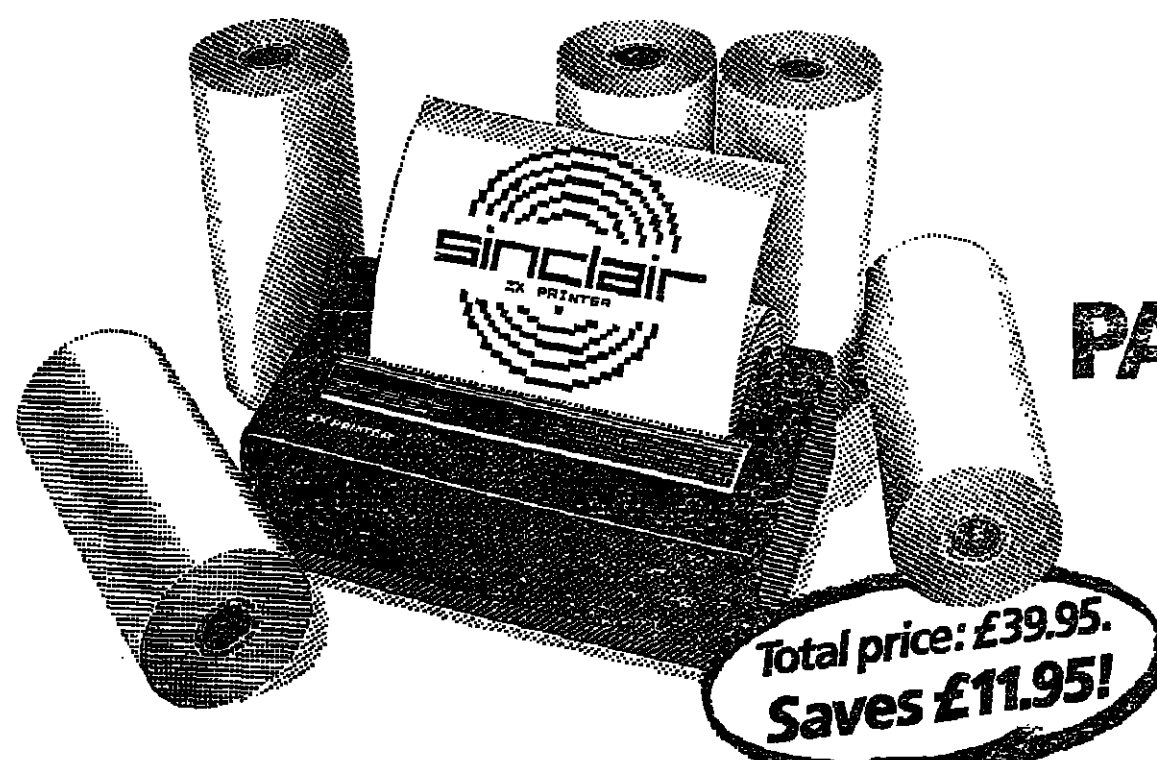
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SPECTRUM

The bias of Britain's doctors is curative, but holistic forms of therapy are in demand and this concluding article asks why they should not be provided by the medical profession

Time to shake the medicine

By Ruth West and Brian Inglis

Health care cannot be equated with illness care. That is the lesson taught by experience under the National Health Service, and it is the main reason why alternative therapies are in fashion and likely to thrive.

The NHS is a marvellous concept. When brought into being it was, understandably, entrusted to the control of the medical profession. But the medical profession by custom, training and attitude is oriented towards the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

Disease has been thought of as something caused by external agents. The assumption has been that those it struck were not in any way responsible. This simplistic interpretation has now been overturned, largely by epidemiological research which has revealed that psycho-social components - poor diet, lack of exercise, smoking, drinking and stress - are by far the main cause of illness.

The hospital-based training of doctors leaves them ill-equipped to deal with psycho-social disorders. Although a growing number of general practitioners and a handful of consultants, are striving to impress upon their colleagues the need to reorient theory and practice, inevitably the public has begun to drift away from the medical establishment.

The consequence is a greater attention to physical fitness, health foods and dietary supplements. And in increasing numbers, people are turning to alternative medicine.

There are probably fewer than 3,000 practitioners of alternative medicine in Britain. That number excludes an estimated 20,000 healers (the term "faith healer" is now frowned upon: "spiritual" or "psychic" are sometimes used), and also excludes perhaps 6,000 men and women who provide a variety of treatments with very little training.

The demand for alternative medicine has been documented by Stephen Fulder and Robin Monro in *The Status of Complementary Medicine in the UK* (1981). The sample they took showed that consultations with alternative therapists have been increasing at the rate of between 10 and 15 percent a year.

There has also been a striking increase in the number and quality of applicants for places in training schools. One three-year course for the Alexander technique has a waiting list of 100, to fill only 32 places. A four-year osteopathy course reflects a growing trend for school leavers to choose alternative medicine as a career: many of its 100 students are only 18 years old.

The time is coming when the decision will need to be taken whether alternative therapists should be brought into the NHS, and if so, how.

The chief obstacle is the continuing hostility of the medical establishment. There are small signs that the hostility may be breaking down at the level of general practice, helped by the decision of the General Medical Council in the 1970s to rescind the ban on doctors referring patients to medically unqualified practitioners. The more enlightened GPs have realized how useful it is to have an osteopath or acupuncturist nearby to take difficult patients off their backs.

The setting up this year of the British Holistic Medical Association offers the prospect of an organization in which both sides could take part. The group is to hold its inaugural conference September 24 and 25.

One stock argument against alternative therapy caution that doctors should wait until controlled experiments have demonstrated that such therapy is more effective than conventional treatment.



Admittedly, few such experiments have been held, because the funds have not been made available to make them possible. Where they have been held, the results have often been impressive. An example is chiropractic to treat back injuries. Yet the recommendation of the Cochrane committee that there should be further experiments with back pain cases has been largely ignored.

Some small-scale research projects in other fields have produced promising results: with homeopathy for arthritis, meditation for high blood pressure, acupuncture for pain relief, and herbs for migraine.

A second stock argument is that alternative therapists are inadequately trained and may make disastrous errors in diagnosis and treatment.

The irony of this contention is that the overwhelming majority of patients who go to alternative therapists have first been told by doctors that there is nothing wrong with them. The criticism against lack of training may once have been valid, but alternative

medicine schools now set a very much higher standard than they did 10 years ago.

The Polytechnic of Central London now offers a degree course to students of alternative medicine. Critics contend it is not entirely suitable. Yet it could serve as a preclinical degree. And it does have the advantage that those enrolling for it would naturally qualify for a grant.

A third argument is that alternative therapies are disorganized, often with rival schools and groups. If they want recognition, says the argument, they must first put their house in order, and then apply to become one of the Professions Supplementary to Medicine.

Internal divisions have indeed been a problem. But there is a new spirit of cooperation, and it would not be so difficult now for all trained osteopaths, for example, to be represented by a single organization instead of four or five. They and their patients would welcome a recognized means of registering qualified practitioners.

Whether they would want to join the PSM, is doubtful. If they joined, alternative therapists would be expected to treat only those patients referred to them by a doctor, and therapists would certainly jib at this. In any case, many of them are now so much better off financially than the physiotherapists, chiropodists and others in the PSM that they would prefer to stay out of it.

A new difficulty has arisen, too, in that more and more practitioners are diversifying. After training in acupuncture, the therapist may take courses in herbal medicine, homeopathy and relaxation techniques, on the holistic principle that they can then give patients whatever type of treatment best suits their needs.

In a sense, alternative therapists are moving in the direction of general practice for specialist organizations to apply for admission to PMS would hardly be appropriate. A more sensible approach would be to recognize therapists who have qualified through certain training courses, without putting them into compartments.

One other argument of a different sort is now being put forward. If the public demands alternative therapies, and if they are found to be effective, why should they not be provided by members of the medical profession?

The snag here is that the bias of doctors is curative rather than "curative", symptom-banishing rather than holistic. And as education is controlled by the medical establishment, training is unlikely to change.

Doctors can, and increasingly do, take courses in one or another of the therapies. But the onus is on them whether they learn the bare basics of a therapy or follow a professional training course of one to two years. This is hardly a decision to be left up to the individual doctor. Training should be in depth training. In China, acupuncture is looked upon as a system of medicine in its own right, to be practised by doctors alongside western medicine, but only after they have undergone a two-year "conversion" training. It is perhaps not surprising that the only fatality to be reported recently as a result of acupuncture was of a patient being treated by a general practitioner.

There is little prospect in the immediate future of the alternative therapist being brought into the NHS. The Department of Health has little stomach for a confrontation with the medical establishments. Chancellors of the exchequer, whatever their party, would not relish the expenditure.

Nevertheless, if the public continues to switch to alternative therapists, pressure is bound to grow to give them some formal status within the NHS. One interim suggestion for obtaining their services under the NHS is that they be paid by the Family Practitioners' Committee - the bodies responsible for paying 70 per cent of GP receptionists' salaries, and which pays "item of service" fees for vaccinations and the like.

The most likely outcome, though, will be a stall in the form of a commission of inquiry. The last royal commission on the NHS took evidence on alternative medicine, but failed to include it in its report.

The BMS's Board of Science has just set up a group to investigate alternative therapies. Its terms have not yet been defined and it has only six months to produce its report. Any investigation of medical alternatives from such a source is unlikely to inspire confidence or trust.

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moreover...
Miles Kingston

Dreams in The Sun

World Exclusive Interview with editor of Sun

Alarmed, distraught, a bit hung over. That's how the editor of *The Sun*, lovely 39-year-old Bernard Delpy, feels this morning, as the echoes of his failed adventure reverberate around the world. Single handed, he attempted to interview someone who was not even there and though he failed in the attempt he thinks someone will succeed in getting away with it one day.

And now, head hung low, the fatigue of the ordeal still visible in his shaking hand and trembling dark glasses, how does he feel about it all?

"Tired. Very, very tired. But, above all, elated at the lovely publicity. That's how I feel this morning, Brian", he told me in the simple office marked "KEEP OUT", where all comers are welcome. "This has cost me a lot of money, I won't deny that. But every penny of it has been worth it. I'd try and cross the Atlantic again tomorrow, if I had the chance."

The editor of *The Sun*, dark-eyed, vivacious Barney Xerox, 39, has not, of course, been trying to cross the Atlantic. But truth has never been the prime consideration for him. As the editor of a popular newspaper, he has always aimed higher than that. He has a dream. A dream, which, perhaps, only he can fulfill.

"I have a dream, Brian", he confided in me, as he thoughtfully broached the third gin and tonic of the morning. "A dream which perhaps only I can fulfil. The perfect interview. An interview in which interviewee, interviewee and tape recorder somehow merged into one transcendent unity. Either that or into a very big cheque."

"Not that money has meant anything to me. I have always run for the sheer joy of running. Not a penny have I made out of it. And now that my drinker's elbow seems to have put paid to my trip to Helsinki, I have to face the prospect that I may never run again. But they have been good years and I am proud to retire as world record holder."

Sometimes, as he bows low over the letter from Rupert Murdoch marked: "Very Confidential and Extremely Favourable", it seems that Barney lives in a world of his own. It is almost as if I am not there and as if he is listening to voices to which he is forced to reply. A man of vision, undoubtedly, but living dangerously near to the edge of sanity.

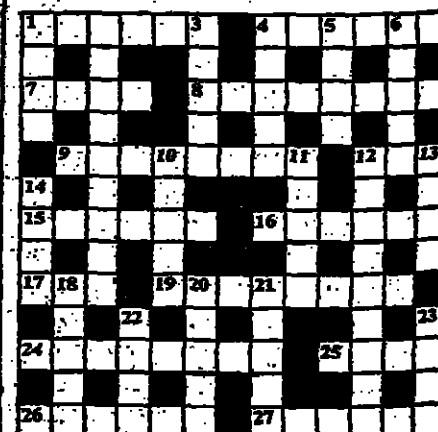
"There is talk of me resigning", he says suddenly. "Nonsense, rubbish. That is what I call it. I am not the sort of woman who would let a small eye operation come between me and leading the readers of *The Sun* into a world of prosperity and endless Bingo. Tell them from me that I am their leader and they shall have no other leader but me."

Almost without realizing it, he lifts my gin and tonic and finishes it. What sort of a man is he, this Bertram Simpkins, aged 16, who for the last few days has been living through the sort of hell that only one of the 3,000 surviving ex-editors of the *Daily Express* could comprehend?

"What sort of a man am I?" he muses, taking his own pulse and signing a large cheque to himself. "What sort of a man could have lived through the sort of hell that only an actor in *Coronation Street* could comprehend? I have always been a happy family man, Brian. There have been times during the last fortnight when I have seriously considered suicide, but at the last moment I have always thought to myself: The money is just not good enough. That's the sort of man I am. If you could just let yourself out, Brian, and not come back until you've got some more money, I'd be very grateful."

And as I tip toe out, I reflect that not once during the entire interview has he got my name right. But he has called me by the name that seems right to him. That is the sort of man he is.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 122)



- ACROSS
- 1 Sustained gaping (6)
 - 2 Playful (4)
 - 3 Buzzed (4)
 - 4 Story teller (8)
 - 5 Vogue expression (5)
 - 6 Gender (3)
 - 7 Microscopic creature (5)
 - 8 Choking disease (6)
 - 9 Idle talk (3)
 - 10 Epoxy resin (8)
 - 11 Distinct (8)
 - 12 S-shaped curve (4)
 - 13 Possibility (3)
 - 14 Best pattern (6)
- DOWN
- 1 Fully developed (4)
 - 2 Believing too readily (5)
 - 3 Tendon (5)
 - 4 Jumpy (5)
 - 5 Layer (4)
 - 6 Cursed (5)
 - 7 Striped animal (5)
 - 8 All dinner (5)
 - 9 Clothes (9)
 - 10 Body photograph (4)
 - 11 Strong odour (4)
 - 12 Mistletoe (5)
 - 13 Exploratory check (3)
 - 14 Subsequently (5)
 - 15 Acquisition (4)
 - 16 Coal layer (4)

SOLUTION TO No 121
ACROSS: 1 Curlew 5 So 6 Nobby 9 Nigella 11 Fast food 12 Trot 15 Divisibly 18 Bird 19 Polynesian 22 Knapweed 23 Chair 24 Goat 25 Rarity
DOWN: 2 Units 3 Fly 4 Windowdopper 5 Sigh 6 Spurge 7 Kaiti 10 Acts 12 Five 14 Obey 15 Live in 16 Beck 17 Sharp 20 About 21 Scot 23 Car

Sweet and sour views on the sugar debate

Last week's *Spectrum* article on the possible effects of white sugar on human behaviour (of children in particular) raised a voluminous and varied correspondence. These are excerpts from some of the letters.

From Professor A. J. Vliet, director-general of the World Sugar Research Organization, London.
The evidence presented by your writer was based almost entirely on references to Alexander Schauss and the so-called Institute for Biosocial Research. If she had taken the time to "research" the matter, she would have found that the "Institute" is essentially a post-office address and not a laboratory and that Alexander Schauss does not possess medical qualifications which would be recognized anywhere in Britain or the United States.

Even a cursory examination of the recent scientific literature would have revealed that careful scientific studies at MIT by Wurtman, at the Royal Ottawa Hospital in Canada by H. Bruce Ferguson, by Brody and Wolitzky at New York University, by Professor Vincent Marks at Surrey University, by Dr Esther Wender at Montefiore Hospital, New York, and by a number of other serious, highly-qualified researchers in this country and abroad, completely reject the hypothesis that sugar and diet have anything whatsoever to do with behavioural patterns in children either directly or indirectly.

It is distressing that *The Times* should publish so misleading an article on a subject of such importance to the public, and especially to base the article on evidence as flimsy as that which was cited, at the exclusion of the vast majority of careful scientific work which contradicts the conclusions of your author.

From Dr H. Shrimpton, director-general of the British Nutrition Foundation, London.
Barbara Griggs alleges that "late twentieth-century diet is a disaster for millions in the West...". The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's national food survey statistics for 1980 show that the average British household diet exceeds the recommended daily amounts for all major nutrients.

It has long been recognized that nutrients can be lost during cooking in the home and relatively few foods can be consumed raw. Food processing has reduced the preparation needed in the home and, through the technology used, reduced also the loss of nutrients from farm to table.

Barbara Griggs omits any reference to the detailed scrutiny, consultation and continuing surveillance of human food and animal feeds by committees of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Department of Health and Social Security, from which stem regulations that have to be observed. Premature public debate on diet and behaviour can be misleading, however well intentioned. While it is clearly important to take account of the results of current research, it must always be remembered that an experimental science has to progress through hypotheses before generally accepted theories can be established.

At present the best advice the British Nutrition Foundation can give to the public is to aim for an adequate diet by eating in moderation from a wide range of foods.

From Mrs Fabienne Smith, Edinburgh.
Clinical ecologists have been saying for 50 years that allergic foods, and most certainly sugar, can cause mental disturbance and antisocial behaviour. If allergy is involved no one food is the culprit. The US research into young criminals should try withdrawing other potential allergens from the diet of those youngsters whose behaviour the absence of sugar did not improve.

From Miss Pauline Asher, Teddington, Middlesex.
What child is averse to chips, or to chocolate or to fizzy drinks? Offer youngsters free choice of healthy and "junk" foods and, for many, bad food will drive out good. Many teachers in schools which have introduced the canteen system have observed that chips, chocolate and Coke easily outsold salad and fruit juice, and many of us have expressed concern about the effect on pupils' health and growth.

Barbara Griggs' excellent article suggests other urgent reasons for ending the sale in school of these

apparently dangerous indulgences. It is not an answer to point out that children will spend their dinner money at sweet-shops if the canteen fails to provide what they want. We do not, after all, sell cigarettes and airplane glue at the tuck shop.

From Mrs Jean Milson, Knebworth, Herts.

Your article struck a familiar chord in this household. From age 10 to 13 years my daughter suffered from very severe migraine attacks. These took the form of intense headache, combined with vomiting, numbness, temporary bouts of blindness (causing a state of panic), disorientation, confusion of speech and sometimes a feeling of claustrophobia. Sometimes Jane's state of distress bordered on hysteria and we have had to ask our GP to call and give her a sedative injection. The attacks were known to last for three days, and gradually we realized were always heralded by displays of bad temper and unreasonable behaviour - though happily only on the evenings before an attack.

At the time of diagnosis of migraine our GP had suggested that diet was a contributory factor and gave us a list of foods associated with migraine - e.g. cheese, coffee, peanuts. Certainly avoidance of these foods helped and by monitoring her diet, on the GP's advice, we established other troublesome foods, e.g. fried foods and citrus fruit.

The attacks continued, however, on average once a month, and after two nasty bouts within one week and because Jane was complaining of backache, we consulted an osteopath/naturopath. He confirmed that Jane had displaced a vertebra (probably as a result of a car accident some years before), but added (as a result of a gently probing discussion) that he considered she probably had a low blood sugar condition and that sugar should be totally eliminated from her diet.

With a combination of diet manipulation and alteration in diet, the change in Jane was almost instantaneous and remarkable. Her energy level and good spirits soared. Probably it is too early to be complacent, but in the seven and a half months since the commencement of this new regime Jane has had

only two migraine attacks and one of those was very mild. We again have the good-natured, cheerful girl she was before migraine.

My point in writing is to suggest to other parents with a child suffering from migraine that they might try sugar elimination. This is not always so easy since sugar is so often a hidden ingredient. However, Jane was so delighted at the possibility of relief that she has stuck to the regime with stoic fortitude, allowing herself the occasional digestive biscuit or ice cream. She also lost 7lb weight during her first month's dieting, which was a source of delight.

From S. J. Vincent, sugar researcher for Woodhouse, Drake & Carey (Sugar) Ltd, London.
The research programmes cited by Barbara Griggs are at best misleading and on the whole fitful, unsatisfactory and based on dubious circumstantial evidence.

Researchers for many years apparently have been looking for possible links between diet and the growth in violent crime, with recent interest being focused on hypoglycaemia, or low blood sugar. In particular, white sugar is given as the main object for attack.

The article states that the ingestion of refined sugar causes the body to lose control of its blood level - i.e. "rocks" the blood chemistry into a state of hypoglycaemia, which results in sudden bursts of "anti-social behaviour", "mood changes", "fidgety and irritable".

White sugar, when digested, is broken down into monosaccharides, glucose and fructose, which are then absorbed into the bloodstream, and are metabolized by cells for energy. Any excess is converted in the liver to glycogen or may be converted to fat for storage. The pancreas secretes insulin, which lowers the blood sugar level. Normally, the body is in an equilibrium and the ingestion of sucrose in its disaccharide form presents no great changes in the body chemistry. The great rebounding and plummeting in blood sugar levels described in *The Times* occur only where the body cannot regulate the changes properly, e.g. in the case of diabetes.



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WEDNESDAY PAGE

A word in the right place

How Mrs John Glenn overcame a stammer to help her astronaut husband in his campaign to be president

Annie Glenn has just been in New England, campaigning on behalf of her husband, John Glenn, the former astronaut and two-term senator from Ohio who is now seeking the Democratic nomination for president.

This in itself would be no extraordinary feat for most American political wives, for they are expected to involve themselves in their husband's campaigns to a much greater extent than their counterparts in Britain. However, for Mrs Glenn the series of speeches she delivered in New Hampshire, Maine and Connecticut represented a personal triumph over a disability she has suffered all her life. She is a stammerer.

Before she underwent therapy, Mrs Glenn stumbled over 85 per cent of the words she spoke. Even the most casual conversation with her husband could be a taxing experience. It meant she never dared order her own meal in a restaurant. For her the telephone was "the invention of the devil" which she always got her husband or her children to answer whenever possible. A speech of any kind was inconceivable to a woman who would even stumble over "Gee whizz".

For years Mrs Glenn stoically lived with her affliction, supported by her family and their many friends who would patiently wait as she laboured her way through simple conversations. But when her husband emerged as a national hero after becoming the first American to orbit the earth in 1962 she became increasingly self-conscious of her handicap, the more so when John Glenn became active in politics.

During his first political campaign Mrs Glenn was so stung by reporters describing her as shy that she called a press conference to set the record straight. "A lot of you," she began haltingly, "I hurt my t-f-feelings, b-b-b because a lot of people have called me shy, b-b-b but I'm not s-shy, I s-s-stammer."

According to a friend, there were tears streaming down the faces of reporters by the time she finished speaking.

Over the years Mrs Glenn had tried various forms of therapy but without success. However, in 1974 she began a revolutionary new speech therapy course at Hollins College, near Roanoke in Virginia. "The course was very intense," she told me during a break in the campaign with her husband through the Midwest. "It was a matter of total immersion for three weeks."

During the first week she had to say the sounds of letters of the alphabet at two-second intervals, over and over and again. If she got it wrong or hesitated, a green light would shine and she would have to start once more.

She was also taught how to control the muscles one uses when talking through rhythmic

drills designed to slow down speech and correct breathing.

The second week, she had to go through the letters of the alphabet at one-second intervals, and she began to take part in group sessions with other stammerers undergoing therapy. The third week she began to make practice phone calls to airlines and railway stations and practice visits to shopping centres. She made a point of going to shoe shops so that she could practice the "sh" sound, one of the most difficult for stammerers.

The effect of the therapy was remarkable. She says some of her friends cried when she telephoned them to show how she had progressed. However, she was still far from cured, and it took another session at Hollins College, numerous visits to a private speech therapist and hours of practice at home before she felt confident enough to speak in public.

Mrs Glenn is still not word perfect. In conversation with her, it is sometimes possible to see her engaged in a silent mental struggle before a word emerges. There are other telltale hesitations. Occasionally, when she gets tired, she changes from speaking at normal speed to what she describes as "slow normal", rather like a car changing gear when going up hill. She will remain in "slow normal" until she is confident she can return to a faster pace of conversation.

Considering the extent of her stammer, her ability to overcome it has been extraordinary. Originally she hoped to improve enough simply to be able to exchange small talk at social functions which her husband had to attend. She never dreamt of making her own speeches or, as she has been doing on her New England tour, answering questions about her husband's policies.

Mrs Glenn is widely considered by American political observers to be a big asset to her husband's campaign for the presidency. Her warmth and charm compensate for the reserve he frequently displays in public.

When she accompanies him on campaign trips, she invariably can be seen trailing behind her husband as she stops to chat to people or to shake a few extra hands. Senator Glenn often refers to her as his "copilot", and they undoubtedly make a good team. She not only provides him with a "human dimension" but also assists him as full-time but unpaid staffer.

But even with her present fluency she can still never relax completely. "I'll always be a stammerer. But I'm determined never to go back to my old ways." To ensure this does not happen she makes three practice telephone calls every day and records herself so that she can hear where she hesitates or makes a mistake.

Nicholas Ashford



Speaking freely now: John and Annie Glenn with their grandchild

JOANNA LUMLEY'S DIARY

Just a minotaur

The palace at Knossos was far larger and grander than I had dreamed it would be. At my insistence, we joined a lot of keen visitors led at breakneck speed by a sweating guide, who appeared to be reading the information off our shirt fronts, ending every sentence with "... as I have just told you". Our illustrated map showed us how it was 3,000 years ago: terrace after terrace of heavy, cool verandahs, supported by hundreds of huge black and red pillars; vast, cool chambers and grand staircases with alabaster walls and porphyry basins.

The few remaining frescoes were in clear, bright colours and of pleasing and sophisticated design. Jane, who is of Minoan proportions (just over 5ft), fell in love with the queen's bathroom, with its hippath, lavatory and running water. The queen had chosen to have dolphins painted on the bedroom walls, they being symbols both of the joy of life and of music.

Outside, the white-hot dusty air was full of the clamour of cicadas; inside (as I have just told you) cool air circulated through skylights and windows as we sat where the high priests sat on marble benches, while the guide studied our kneecaps. We didn't find the Labyrinth, or Ariadne's thread, but we saw the theatre, the sacred storage vaults and throne rooms, and Lucius gave me a perfect replica of the famous Knossos bull's head.

On the beach at Sitia, we hired a

pedalo and the boys rented canoes. Business was slack, so we were allowed to use them for as long as we liked. "Isn't it easy?" we cried, pedalling madly towards the harbour: under us, the turquoise water showed the sandy sea bed: in the distance an old man was wrestling bravely with a windsurfer. No sooner had he gone up, jerking like a puppet, then he dragged it, in slow motion, back on himself in the water.

A light breeze helped us across the bay. "Isn't this easy-peasy?" we shrieked, our knees going like pistons, as we covered league after league of slightly choppy water. We sang "All the nice girls love a sailor" and "A life on the ocean wave": the shore was half a mile away, and we slopped seawater on our backs to stop our shoulders burning. The boys were nearly at Rhodes, flying along like lammergeys.

On the way back, a light gale got up and, try as we might, we could only just tread water, never advancing an inch. The wind whipped the songs from our lips. (Hercules, given the alternative of mucking out the Augean Stables or going round Sitia Bay in a pedalo, positively sprinted for his punchfork.) In the distance, I saw the old man submerging for the fourteenth time. Two hours later, shaking with fatigue, we crawled back to base just in time to see senex triumphant up and going for the first time. His grey face could be seen through the plastic window of the sail, as he sped inexorably towards the shore, straight out of the water,

on to the sand and over a bathing towel.

On the menu: Orance Luince, Tost, Vuter, Socolate and Ojam; under Warm Suggestions came Lombster, Proc Cuttle, Gold Fish, Sex Bream, Lamp Shops, Chorse Pies and Shrimbs, followed by Nucis, Ice Cream and Creek. We ate like Olympians.

One day in London before leaving for Italy to test drive a new car. At the last minute I have my shoulder-length locks cut off, and emerge looking curiously similar to Doris Day.

Early morning in the Piazza del Campo in Siena. We have police permission to drive the car anywhere, even up one-way streets. The car is being lined up for the next shot so we take a cappuccino break.

Pigeons wheel in the pale sunlight; the client, explaining one of the finer points of the car, sends the coffee in a fast, low backhand all over my cream coat and skirt. The waiter brings me a saucer of soda water and I retire to the lavatory where I drench the stains to dilute them. There are no towels, only a hot air machine to dry your hands. Ideal. Take off skirt, activate machine and hold damp clothing under roaring blast. Man enters, not Italian. Try to mime accident for him and show him now invisible marks on skirt. He looks balefully at my bare legs and high heels and gives me a wide berth.

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THE TIMES COOK



Shona Crawford Poole

As plums go, Victorias are reliable, but an unexciting variety from the taste point of view. Greenages, of which there are several types, have the flavour I like best, but there are dozens of different sorts of home grown plums ripening from now till the end of September.

Sour, unripe plums, or greenages, can be cooked to make excellent gammonies for roasts like roast pork, or ducks which have been reared for the table. The sharpness of the fruit cuts the fattiness of meats like these. In the case of duck it seems to me almost sinful to coat the skin with sticky orange or cherry sauces, and the glazed plums I am suggesting are quite different.

But first, the duck must be roasted so that the skin is crisp and dry while the flesh beneath it is tender and succulent. Spit-roasting does this brilliantly and so do fan-assisted electric ovens. I do not even bother to season ducks before cooking them with either method.

Using a conventional oven, the best way I have found to roast a duck is to set it on a rack over a tin to catch the fat and to slow roast it for 30 minutes to the pound, plus 30 minutes, in a pre-heated moderate oven (180°C/350°F, gas mark 4). I have given up preparing ducks for the oven by pricking them with darning needles to encourage the fat to run out. Roast

them slowly and the fat drips away of its own accord - unaccompanied by juices from the meat.

Serve the roast duck, or pork, with thin, well-flavoured gravy and glazed plums.

Glazed plums
Serves four.
8 ripe, but firm plums
2 tablespoons melted butter
1 small clove garlic, bruised
2 tablespoons honey
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Cut the plums in halves and twist to separate and remove the stones.

Add a hint of garlic to the butter by heating the bruised garlic clove in it for a few minutes then removing it, or by squeezing a little of the garlic into the butter. Stir in the honey and cinnamon.

Grease an ovenproof dish which will hold the plums in one layer and arrange them in the dish, cut side uppermost. Paint the plums with the flavoured butter and bake them in a preheated moderate oven (180°C/350°F, gas mark 4) for about 15 minutes, basting once or twice. The plums should be tender but not falling apart, and can be finished under a hot grill if the oven has been switched off to rest the duck before carving.

Plums poached in wine
Serves six.

600g (2lb) firm plums
110g (4oz) sugar
250ml (9 fl oz) Madeira or medium sherry

To peel the plums drop them, a few at a time, into boiling water. Remove them after 30 seconds and the skins should peel easily.

Put the sugar in a large pan with 300ml (1/2) water. Heat slowly until the sugar dissolves, then simmer the syrup for 10 minutes and add the wine.

Bring the syrup back to a simmer and add half the plums. Poach them gently until they are tender, probably about 10 minutes, then remove them to a serving dish with a slotted spoon. Cook the remaining plums the same way and add them to the dish. Reduce the poaching liquid to a slightly thickened syrup by fast boiling, and pour it over the fruit.

Lightly toast the almond flakes until they are a pale, golden brown and scatter over the plums just before serving.

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Tuesday August 9 1983

U.S. banks hoist prime to 11% as dollar continues rise

FT deal ties to gains in efficiency



Back in business: yesterday's Financial Times

Will the Street of Ink run dry?

It's great to have the FT back. If it isn't sacrilegious in these pages to do so, I confess that having begun my life in Fleet Street on the pink 'un, I find my breakfast is not complete without it. The manner of its return, however, does give one pause.

A few years back I wrote an editorial in another newspaper arguing that the problems of our industrial relations would never be resolved by changes in the law or by government control of wages, but only by the rediscovery that jobs and industrial survival depended on common sense in pay bargaining. To which the management of the newspaper concerned responded with a terse rejoinder: "Try your hand at negotiating in Fleet Street."

I'd argue that both of us were right. As a general rule I believe my proposition stood up, and subsequent experience throughout the private sector has confirmed it. But I cannot pretend there is as yet a sign that it applies in Fleet Street.

Last Wednesday morning I bumped into an old friend with close connections with the higher echelons of Fleet Street management. What I asked him, was going to happen at the FT. "Oh," he replied confidently, "they'll print in Frankfurt, and bypass the NGA."

That, surely, had been the expectation in the industry from the start of the dispute. Here was a newspaper which of all the national dailies was probably least at risk of permanent loss of market through absence from the bookshelves, a newspaper backed by all the resources of the Pearson empire; a newspaper already equipped with the capacity to print in Germany. On the other side of the dispute was a union which had gone far to isolate itself, which had defied the TUC by rejecting the findings of independent arbitration, and been threatened with expulsion from that body.

It would be hard to think of another private sector industry where a union would have called its troops out in such a cause in the present business climate - or persuaded them to obey the call had it done so. At long last, or so it was thought, a precedent would be set for bringing a degree of rationality into Fleet Street bargaining.

As it is, we have the word of both

the managing director of the Financial Times and Mr. Len Murray that the settlement was in conformity with the recommendations of the arbitrator. But it would surely take a very cock-eyed optimist to believe that the issue of differentials between the print unions which caused the trouble will now go away.

It has been suggested that S. Pearson felt that the potential hazards of setting out to print in Frankfurt were too great. Maybe. Maybe also, though the potential costs of a head-on clash with the NGA looked too great to the rest of Fleet Street, not-withstanding the potential redress offered by the industrial relations legislation of the last Parliament.

That surely is the rub. In Fleet Street the cards are uniquely stacked against the management. Newspapers, unlike cars or machine tools, cannot be delivered late. A threat of closure lacks credibility when experience to date suggests that there is no shortage of potential bidders for a national title however much it may be losing.

When one newspaper vanishes from the streets through industrial action, its competitors must increase their print-runs and find themselves employing those on strike to do so, or face the wrath of disappointed faithful customers. And whatever the law may say, an attempt by one management to bypass a technically superfluous craft union is all too sure to implicate others.

Last, but not least, it will never be easy to convince the union rank and file that they should hesitate before they put at risk the goose that lays the golden eggs for them. Upwards of £15,000 for a very part-time job must always seem worth grabbing while it lasts.

My guess, for what it's worth, is that eventually printing will cease to be a Fleet Street activity. We may have national newspapers, but they will be typeset in Liverpool or Aachen. But first we'll probably have to go through a period, perhaps of years, when the national press is shut down altogether. Nothing less will shift the log-jam now.

The author was Economic Secretary to the Treasury in Mrs Thatcher's last government.

James Curran

White coats and black cap

"We found this miraculous little hospital", Margaret Thatcher told reporters on television, almost as if she had discovered a marvellous little restaurant. The smiling nurses, lined up at the entrance of HRH Princess Christian Hospital, completed what was in effect an unplanned advertisement for private health insurance on ITV's *News at Ten* on Saturday.

The commercial was in stark contrast to *Lottery for Life*, a powerful documentary from Yorkshire TV shown earlier last week, which unaccountably passed unnoticed in the press save for a rightly glowing notice in *The Daily Telegraph*.

The documentary included a memorable interview with a grief-stricken Yorkshire couple, Cyril and Mary Worthington, whose 22-year-old son had died because he had been denied access to a kidney machine. The reason given by the consultant was that he was educationally sub-normal, even though he had sufficient faculties to hold down a job all his adult life.

Between 2,000 and 3,000 kidney patients suitable for treatment die each year because of a shortage of kidney machines. Those "deserted for treatment" - a medical euphemism for murder by neglect - tend to be, as the programme dismayingly showed, below average intelligence, or elderly (over 60), or immigrants with poor English, very ill, or simply living in the Midlands and the North where facilities are particularly inadequate.

Lottery for Life revealed a national scandal caused by the gross under-funding of renal facilities in the NHS which requires urgent ministerial action. Because kidney machines are scarce, the medical profession is put in the invidious position of determining who is most worthy for treatment. Inevitably this leads to social and personal prejudice colouring what should be strictly medical assessments.

"Uncooperative patients", "very uncooperative husbands", "spoke no English" are only some of the chilling comments in doctors' case notes in which a decision was taken not to offer dialysis or a kidney transplant, reproduced in the *British Medical Journal*. If this kind of judgment is to be avoided, all kidney patients suitable for treatment - for whom dialysis is not simply a prolongation of dying - must be treated properly.

Professor Stewart Cameron, of Guys Hospital, estimates that this

would require additional spending of about £50m a year to save up to 3,000 kidney patients. This may seem a lot, but it is in fact very much less than what we are now spending each month on fewer people in the Falkland Islands.

The under-funding for kidney patients is a glaring example of the general lack of resources made available to the NHS. Although the Government is now claiming that as a nation we spend beyond our means on public health, a recent OECD report has revealed embarrassingly that the UK spent less in 1980 on total health care relative to national output than most other countries in the OECD.

The Government is now seeking to reorganize the funding of health by encouraging the growth of private medicine. Already private health insurers have almost doubled in more than two million in the past five years. If this trend continues, pressure for further economies in the NHS will increase from the most influential sections of society to will see little profit in finding a service from which they do not directly benefit.

As the quality of the NHS seems to decline, more people will become increasingly unpopular and difficult to defend. Without most people wanting it to happen, we are now in danger of moving towards a two-tier system, as in the US, in which an inferior service is offered to the poor and the chronically sick rejected by the medical insurance companies.

To prevent this happening, we need to insure that standards in the NHS are maintained and people like the Worthingtons featured in *Lottery for Life* are properly treated. This means that spending on the NHS needs to be at a level that not only meets the needs of the increased number of elderly among us (0.7 per cent gross per year in real terms) but also responds to better methods of diagnosis and treatment. At present the Government projects an increase of only half per cent increased spending each year, and even this may be withheld if Treasury pressures prove overwhelming.

If the NHS is to survive undamaged in the years ahead, the coalition of social forces that brought it into being in the 1940s also needs actively to defend it. Even if this coalition is disastrously split in electoral terms among the Labour, Liberal and Social Democratic parties, it still represents the majority of people in Mrs Thatcher's Britain.

The author is editor of *New Socialist*.

Juggling on a sterling tightrope

Graham Searjeant asks if the Government is taking too relaxed an attitude to the latest upheavals in currency markets

stricture that it should stick to bingo, faces no such embarrassment today. The pound, previously swept up in the dollar's train, has eased gently and, thanks to others, stopped rising against the continental currencies that really matter for our trade. There is no sign, as yet, that our hands-off approach has focused the full weight of speculation against the pound. And - again one must say so far - we have therefore avoided importing rising US interest rates via the foreign exchanges.

The trouble with inaction, however, is that it tends to evoke the question: what exactly is Mr Lawson's policy for managing the economy? That is not an easy question to answer.

The great virtue of phase one monetarism was its simplicity. You marshal your firepower against the money supply figures regardless. If the pound rises to \$2.40 and knocks out large chunks of industry, that is unfortunate. The more eclectic, hopefully balanced phase two crystallized in policy practitioners' minds as an attempt to manage all the variables with a constant anti-inflationary bias on state borrowing, money, sterling, taxes. Phase three is, to be polite, ill-defined.

The aim, at least is clear: to nurture a "sustainable, real recovery" by keeping the financial variables in order and inflation firmly under control. But that leaves

conflicts wherever you turn. Business confidence and a strong hand on the money supply can be straight alternatives.

Subtle balance can easily become wishful thinking as officials ponder whether the latest figures show a glass half empty or half full. Take the anti-inflation watch. The approved concept here is to maintain "firm" monetary conditions that will keep pressure on firms to contain costs and wages without making life too difficult. Even at election time, it was clear that the money supply was growing way above target. But from the Prime Minister downwards, ministers are anxious to garner the benefit of earlier policy achievements. So why not sidestep this uncomfortable conflict by looking at the strong exchange rate as evidence of "firm" conditions?

After all, as 1972-73 showed, the first stages of recovery in the British economy, with their emphasis on housing, take lots of money. That memory, however, is not calculated to leave Whitehall minds calmly confident.

The June figures for money supply and on lending could not however be ignored. Mr Lawson acted fast, if somewhat cosmetically, to whip public borrowing back into line. In a recovery, after all, there is no reason to countenance overruns in state spending, even though unemployment costs will leave him

struggling to contain them for as far as computers can see.

Elsewhere, officials were beginning to worry about a housing boom. But the building societies raised their interest rates, much to Mrs Thatcher's disgust, and seem to have stabilized house prices without their rates, or the higher rates on National Savings, feeding through immediately to the banks. Yesterday's money supply figures and bank lending figures provided more relief.

The juggler is still keeping all the balls in the air, if not perfectly balanced. But it can all go so wrong - and will if the market analysts are to be believed. If the pound starts falling fast, where are the firm monetary conditions? Will people save more to stop competition for funds driving bank interest rates up? The markets do not think so. Pro rata, it costs nearly 2 per cent more to borrow money for a year than for a week. Forecasts of 12 per cent base rates in the autumn are common, with or without government action.

It is tempting for the authorities to take a phlegmatic line. Interference to ease consumer credit last autumn and to cut interest rates in the Budget would not be repeated with hindsight. By contrast, the laid-back approach to the end-of-year pressure on sterling paid off. If things do go wrong, it is easier to blame markets for the consequences of an inconveniently rapid financial cycle.

But there must be a nasty feeling at the back of Whitehall minds that, if they let things go too far, they could be left taking panic measures later in the year and taking all the blame.

The deadly Soviet and American manoeuvres in the Arctic

Under way - the battle for the North Pole

This article, compiled from various sources, first appeared in *L'Express*.

On November 17, 1969, deep below the surface of the Barents Sea two submarines passed, unseen, before the Polyarny naval base, off Murmansk, a formidable arsenal and base of the Soviet northern fleet.

The first submarine, carrying strategic nuclear missiles, was Russian. It did not know that close behind was the USS Gato, a nuclear-powered anti-submarine sub. Captain Lawrence Buckard began shadowing the Russian at the entrance of the Barents Sea somewhere off Bear Island, registering the noise of its reactor, of its screw, the light sliding movement it was making while moving ahead. All these were vital details that would later allow the US Navy to identify the Russian sub anywhere in the world.

The USS Gato was simultaneously testing the defence system of the Russian strategic bases. It was a risky operation and Buckard had been authorized to use his atomic-tipped Subroc torpedoes in the event of an attack.

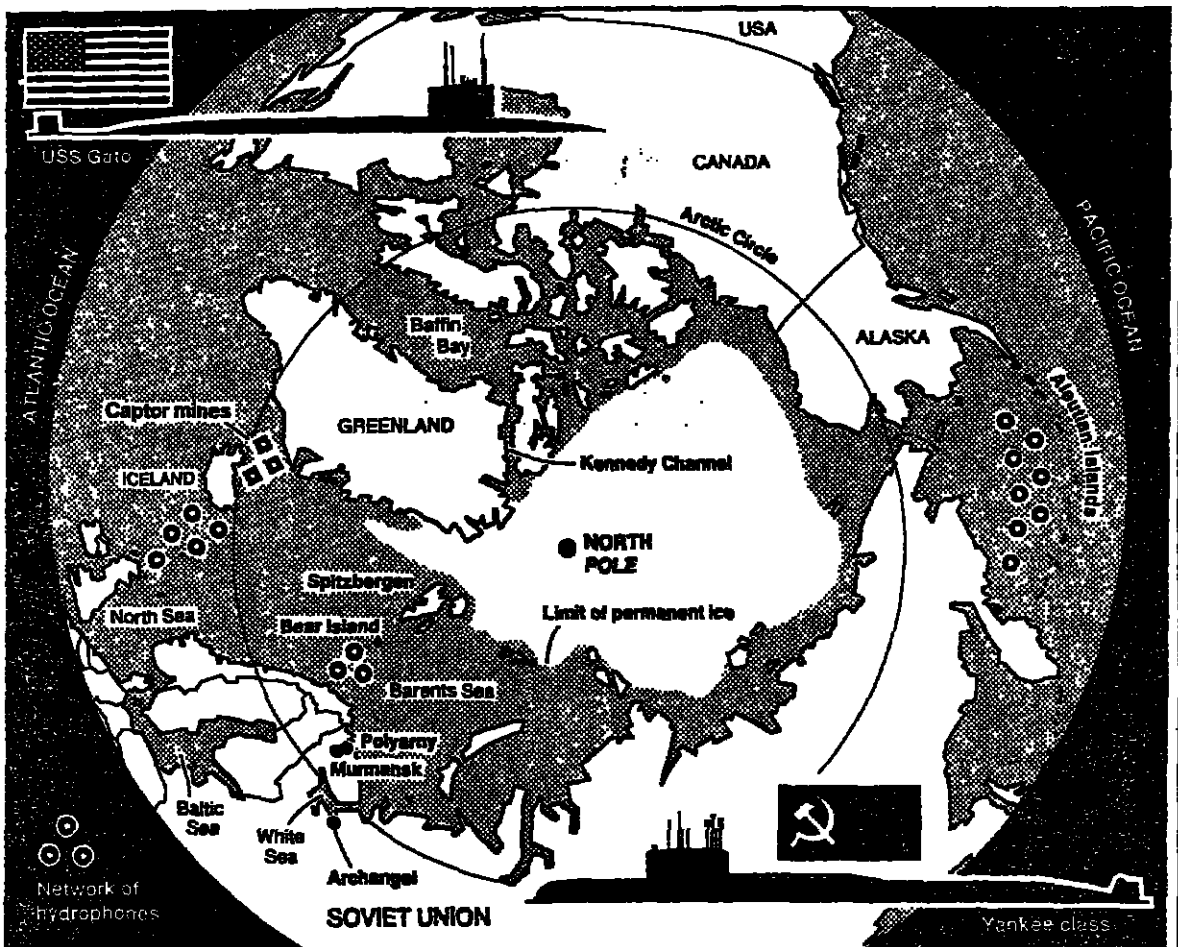
The two subs were steering south between the Kanin and Kola peninsulas defending the entrance to the White Sea in the strategic region of Archangel'sk. It was then that an incident occurred. The Russian boat slowed down but the American sub failed to do so and the two boats collided, though without serious damage. The Russian surfaced and the USS Gato escaped to return safely to base at Norfolk, Virginia.

The incident would have remained a classified secret had it not been for the Watergate affair that cost Richard Nixon the US presidency.

Also secret for many years was the extraordinary adventure involving a Russian submarine of the Golf II type, which disappeared with all hands and three thermo-nuclear missiles in June 1968 in the Pacific. Six years later, America spent millions of dollars - helped by the millionaire Howard Hughes - to recover the wreck with giant cranes. The aim of the operation was to examine closely the Soviet construction technology and get hold of secret surveillance codes. The Russians reportedly paid little attention to the recovery effort.

Since the Watergate revelations, the Pentagon has once more closed the lid on the tricks the rival fleets play on one another in the depths of the oceans, where a dangerous game of hide-and-seek is under way, known only to a few top naval commanders.

Since the end of the Second World War, the Soviets have given priority to large-scale production



and now have 346 submarines of all types. The Americans have only 122 boats, but these are considered generally superior both in quality and firepower. The US navy is betting on technology. Its strategy consists of tracking the adversary with a sophisticated acoustic detection system and attempting to pin down where the Russians are doing and where they are.

Handicapped by geography which grants them only a few outlets to free waters, the Russians are being encircled more and more each day by a system of hydrophones perfected by Washington in recent years. The confidential undersea detecting system is code-named "Sossus", "sound surveillance system". Sossus is designed to pin down the routes followed by Soviet submarines and identify them through files of "acoustic signatures", the particular noise produced by each boat.

Should a Russian submarine try to pass between Greenland and Iceland, it would venture into the fields of capacitor mines which send out torpedoes with a homing warhead at the passage of a "stray" ship.

The countless microphones spying on undersea noise are interconnected and their information is collated at the anti-submarine warfare headquarters in Norfolk, Virginia.

The Russians, whose submarine movements are being increasingly hampered, are making their presence felt around Norway and in the Baltic. There has been a growing number of incidents involving Soviet subs in Norwegian and Swedish waters.

Western experts admit that some of the sightings of Soviet subs were false, but others were genuine. And

evidence of this probing of Scandinavian shores was the grounding of the Soviet sub *Whit 137* in October 1982 off the Swedish naval base of Karlskrona. The sub's commander was reportedly sent to a gulag.

A report published by the Stockholm government on the incidents indicates that miniature submarines had penetrated up to the walls of the seaside residence of King Carl Gustav.

What are the Russians doing in these regions at the risk of straining diplomatic relations with neutral Sweden and with Norway, which is a very prudent member of Nato - two very peaceful neighbours?

According to a western expert in Oslo, the Russians first wish to advertise their claim that they are invulnerable in a sea they consider their own. In fact, it would be vital for the Soviets in a conflict to gain free access to the North Atlantic and thus cut maritime supply lines for the European theatre.

As a result, the North Pole would be the new theatre of a submarine and nuclear conflict. Blocked in the South, the Russians are looking northward, to the polar ice cap at their doorstep. Five out of 10 Soviet submarines carrying strategic nuclear missiles are patrolling the great oceans. The other five are deployed in the Arctic or under the polar ice cap.

After leaving Murmansk the Russian nuclear submarines - designed to pierce thick layers of ice to launch their missiles - can pass south of Spitzbergen, move north again and sail under the ice cap north of Greenland. Then they can pass through the narrow Kennedy Channel under the pack ice and

enter Baffin Bay off northern Canada. That would be an ideal position from which to fire their missiles, since most of the American missile detection systems are turned towards the Atlantic and the Pacific. In addition, SS20 missiles fired from this location would take only 15 minutes to reach their targets, against 30 minutes for missiles fired from Soviet arctic bases.

The Americans, who pioneered submarine navigation below the polar ice cap with the *Nautilus* in August 1958, seem now to have been overtaken in this art by the Russians.

The Russians must not be allowed to build a sanctuary under the ice, says US Admiral James Watkins. The battle of the North Pole has started. It is a covert war, with fish the only witnesses.

Thirteen submarines have been lost since 1946, resulting in the death of 800 submariners. Among them were the *Minerve* and *Eurydice*, lost by the French navy off Toulon in 1968 and 1970. The US nuclear submarines *Thresher* and *Scorpion*, lost in 1963 and 1968, and the Soviet *Golf*, were probably sunk by accident. But nothing can prevent a sub commander from torpedoing an enemy submarine whose crew would not even know they had been detected.

The sea depths are the only spot where the Soviet and western military are in contact in genuine wartime conditions. Carrying formidable armaments and enjoying the anonymity of the ocean darkness, they are defying each other all the time. No one is allowed to make a mistake in this perilous game of hide-and-seek.

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Costa cops, wielding the dove of peace

Benidorm

They call it Blackpool on the Med, this seasonal colossus where shop signs are in English and real "pub grub" is cheaper than at home. With more tourist beds than all Portugal, Benidorm is booked solid throughout the summer - at about 120 per cent of official capacity, since many apartments rented for six or eight persons are occupied by twice as many.

Cheap drink is a big attraction. There is no standard liquor measure, and an ordinary shot in most bars is bigger than a double in Britain. The bartender will often pour out even more without extra charge if the customer asks. The cost of a stiff whisky or gin and tonic is usually about 200 pesetas (about 91p), and in some places as little as 60 pesetas (27p).

Although there is little crime as such in Benidorm, cheap spirits combine with holiday spirits to

induce a certain amount of vandalism and misbehaviour.

"The most common incidents involve throwing furniture and people into hotel swimming pools in the pre-dawn hours," a police officer said. "Some porters have been dunked more than once."

"It's also common for drunks on balconies to urinate on passers-by. Some think it's fun to throw empty bottles out of windows. They damage trees. We realize it's the White Horse and Pedro Domecq that do these things, not the holidaymakers."

But it is the holidaymakers who are locked up, about six or eight a night on average, by the specially created "Green Beret" municipal police.

Its members are hand-picked for the job. All of them tower over their 5ft 7in leader, Sgt Francisco Sanchez, and are skilled in self-defence. Some speak English and other languages to deal with a

population which during the season is mostly foreign (and about 20 per cent British).

With their green berets they wear black shirts and black trousers, their uniform complemented by what they refer to as "the peace dove", a smooth, white truncheon nearly a yard long. Each also carries a 35mm handgun.

Often the mere presence of a Green Beret patrol is enough to calm over-exuberant holidaymakers. If not, or if vandalism is involved, the suspects spend the rest of the night in the small, bare cells of the jail in the basement of the town hall, where thin blankets on concrete pallets are the only concession to comfort. In the morning the fine is the same for all offenders: 10,000 pesetas (£46). Once it is paid, the prisoner goes free; no formal record is kept.

A municipal employee says that on one particular night 34 people were held, and there was not enough room for them all in the cells.

More British are picked up by the Green Berets than any other non-Spanish nationality - not surprising, considering that only Spaniards come to Benidorm in greater numbers. This month there are about 60,000 British citizens in Benidorm, most of them young, at any one time. The yearly total of British visitors is about 800,000.

When they all go home, the Green Berets refrain and go to bed at night. The paddleboat concessionaires repair and repaint their equipment, then go on a long holiday. Weary Paco, a disco owner who enjoys a certain local fame for making love to at least one foreign holidaymaker a day, gets a needed rest.

Benidorm then begins to look deceptively like part of the real world. Only the vibrations deep within its discos at Christmas and Easter dispel that impression, heralding its rebirth every spring.

Harry Debelius

THE TIMES DIARY

Heroine of note

After 76 years, nearly 60 best-sellers and 30 million sales in English alone, Catherine Cookson is taking to the stage with a musical. The authoress, who calls herself a frustrated actress, has happily collaborated with song writer Eric Boswell, whose credits include the Christmas ballad *Little Donkey*, in turning her novel *Katie Mouthall* into a musical for next month's Newcastle Festival. It is the first time any of her books has been adapted for the stage. Katie tells the story of a Tyneside servant girl whose formative experience was to be raped by a member of the local gentry at the age of 15. Cookson has even helped choose the actress to play Katie from more than 350 who applied.

Wild oaths

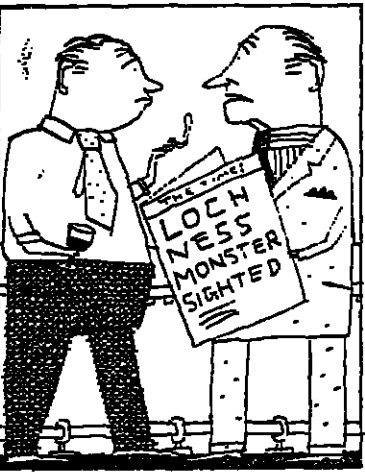
Authors are cursing about the number of oaths they find themselves obliged to swear. They register for Public Lending Right by swearing their identity at their own expense before some well-padded member of the legal profession. When they receive their registration documents they discover that not only must every new book be accompanied by a new fee, but so must every new edition of titles already registered. One might think that authors could be trusted not to change identity between editions, but you cannot be too sure. Janet Morris, after all, became Jan Morris in the middle of a trilogy on the British Empire.

● *Disinayed as I am at the computer boom and the knowledge that children are now smarter than I am, I was not encouraged by an advertisement in yesterday's Times. For a family computer, it boasted that the keyboard is "guaranteed for 20 million depressions".*

County set

Britain is being flooded by Marquis Who's Who Inc of New York with invitations to supply biographical details for a compilation called *Who's Who in the World*. Among the many reported to me this week was one sent to West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council. Rodney Brookes, the council's chief executive, is having a job answering the questionnaire. The council's parentage is uncertain. It never went to school, its career history is difficult to summarize, and its creative works extend to many volumes of minutes. Disappointingly, though the Government proposes to abolish the council on March 31, 1986, the form makes no provision for entering the anticipated date of death.

BARRY FANTONI



"Thank heavens, I thought the silly season would never start"

Full board

The Scottish National Trust is to provide free holidays for cars. The offer will have the additional attraction of dismissing the Leith police from responsibility for the family saloon. When the trust's cruise leaves Leith for the Faroes, Orkney, Shetland and Norway next May aboard the *Fred Olsen* ferry, Black Prince, holidaymakers will be able to take their cars at no extra cost. They will drive on at Leith, and drive off at Leith at the cruise's end, but they will not be able to disembark their cars at any of the ports in between.

● *Women who reply to advertise letters for receive a rather suggestive letter from the firm of H R Murgum Ltd: "We hope that you will be able to... see for yourself how attractive and comfortable Romika shoes are, and that you will want to wear nothing else".*

Banned parade

At the Sir Phirooz Shah Mehta Garden in Bombay a notice proclaims: "1) Any type of exercises are not allowed in the garden 2) Sleeping in the garden is not allowed 3) Dogs are not allowed without a chain 4) Drinking of liquor is not allowed in the garden 5) Eating any cabbages is not allowed 6) Do not pluck the flowers 7) Any type of play such as football, cricket, flying kite, etc is not allowed 8) Photography with the movie camera is totally prohibited 9) Bad deeds are prohibited"

Marxism-Leninism is on the march. On the very day that Lord Cudlipp received a card from his granddaughter in Moscow announcing her visit to Lennon's tomb, the *Egyptian Gazette* carried a story about Yoko Ono's dismay at the theft of her late husband's love letters and diary. The story was accompanied by a photograph captioned: John Lennon. It shows a sixtiesmaitre figure with high-domed bald forehead, neat moustache and goatee beard.

PHS



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PHYSICIAN, HEAL THYSELF

Doctors have been described as the gatekeepers of the health care system. They decide who has access to health care. They decide who will live, who will die, and who will live in what degree of pain and discomfort. It is questionable whether they are adequately equipped for such decisions, both on account of their training in the management of health care resources - which is minimal - and increasingly on account of a growing loss of faith by the public in a purely scientific approach to medicine.

In a climate of financial stringency in the public health service it will always be necessary to apply most rigorous criteria to evaluating the best use of health resources. There is no administrative reason why these decisions should be left to doctors - indeed the exponential growth in the consumption of prescribed drugs, many of which then have to be taken off the market, suggests that doctors have not earned an unqualified right to be left alone with these decisions on administrative, economic or clinical grounds. Against a background of increasing disenchantment with conventional methods of health care, and with access to the public service, it is not altogether surprising that there has been a growth in the number of people turning to alternative sources, as demonstrated in *The Times* this week in the series on alternative medicine which finishes today.

This groping for some extra dimension to health care, however, goes beyond a state of dissatisfaction with hospital waiting lists and crowded clinics. It suggests that many more people now are coming to reject the purely scientific approach to medicine. Certainly philosophers, physicists and mathematicians

are themselves now beginning to explore revolutionary ideas in research, which accept that the causal approach may no longer be a sufficient basis of scientific exploration. While the world of pure science has accepted that idea, some of the applied sciences, and certainly the medical establishment, have not. They continue to disregard the personal factor in medicine and prefer to believe that all physical states can be examined and explained objectively.

The personal factor, encompassing a direct and continuous dialogue between doctor and patient, is at the heart of most systems of alternative treatment. That tends now to be downgraded in much contemporary medicine, dazzled by the objective, computerized approach to healing. Statistics dominate, not just in the administrative decisions of health care, but as the objective criteria against which drugs are tested. This process leads to human beings becoming quantified as groups of units, and away from the reality of the patient as a unique individual.

If disease is regarded as an objective condition, uninfluenced by personal or emotional factors, then surgery and drugs are indisputably the answer. That is indeed the answer which the official medical world normally gives to the official patient. It has led inevitably to the exhaustion of the public health service faced with an insatiable demand for all kinds of surgery, and a drugs bill of billions of pounds, with its inevitable component of dangerous mistakes. From those mistakes we have the paraphernalia of committees to watch out for dangerous drugs being prescribed unwittingly by doctors swept up in their enthusiasm for

drug therapy. From that we have the growth of "iatrogenic diseases" - disease caused by the healer himself - quantified by Dr David Owen when he was Minister of Health as 100,000 patients a year who have to go to hospital to overcome the adverse effects of previous medical treatment.

As the series in *The Times* has shown, there are many disciplines at work in the world of alternative medicine. None of them is enough. The holistic approach to medicine looks at the completeness of an individual - physically and psychologically - and not just at the measurable facts of a physical condition. In this process the patient's response is integral.

The medical world has enormous scientific achievements to its credit, but on the whole it remains ungenerous in its attitude to alternative systems of treatment where scientific research has still failed to provide satisfactory answers. The reaction of some doctors, for instance, to the visit of the Prince of Wales to the Bristol Cancer Help Centre, was to accentuate the negative, rather than to recognise that, in cancer as in most other serious conditions, science has not earned the right to demand absolute conviction from possible patients.

Can the medical world, from its laboratories, also recognise that there is an extra dimension to the art of healing which deserves to be more fully integrated into current systems based predominantly on objective observation? It may be a hard and long process, giving birth to much argument, and many rivalries. However, even the Hippocratic Oath recognised that, in certain callings, spiritual quality is as basic as skill.

BACK TO BASICS

There is no doubt that the very existence of the World Council of Churches is something of an achievement, and that its existence is a powerful symbol of an instinct for catholicity which seems to exist in almost every church. Christianity, they have perceived (particularly since the Second World War), must transcend national boundaries and cultural frontiers to seek a common Gospel, otherwise it will be enslaved in the service of secular nationalism and ideology.

The council has not always been an adequate guarantor of such purity of faith, however, for isms and ologies have been observed stalking its corridors and seizing its platforms too. Being internationalist in spirit, the council's own demons have been left-wing in character. From the council's headquarters in Geneva, the ills of the world are generally described in terms agreeable to Mr Ken Livingstone, say, and there may even be some slightly dotty, slightly sinister anti-racist, anti-sexist project somewhere in London receiving financial aid from both sources.

Every seven years the World Council of Churches brings together a large assembly of representatives of all its member churches, which is in theory at least a chance for the grass roots of Christianity to monitor the council's past record and set policy for the future. It is a valuable corrective, if it works. Unfortunately, as the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, remarked at the current Vancouver assembly drew to its close, there is still something of a gap between the council and "the

ordinary Christian in the pew." Even the Church of England's representatives are not your ordinary pew Christians. They are appointed by the General Synod, which is in turn elected by diocesan synods, which are in turn elected by those on parish electoral rolls. It is not very "participatory," to use one of the council's own favourite words. An ordinary Christian casting his vote in a diocesan election can hardly feel he is contributing very directly to the policy of the World Council of Churches. He is not likely to care overmuch what that policy is, unless it strikes him as outrageous.

Whether the corrective has worked this time at Vancouver, in spite of these factors, is more likely to emerge with the passage of time than from close study of the texts of the assembly's final documents. It took time for the future over the council's Programme to Combat Racism to build up, for it was not so much the principle of the thing that caused alarm, as the way it was implemented. Even now, 14 years later, the dust has hardly settled.

One shift of emphasis is already apparent at Vancouver, however, and it is a welcome sign that the council is beginning to look more closely at the harder parts of its ecumenical agenda, issues of doctrine and ecumenical theology. In the past it has sometimes taken the easier course of concentrating on issues of social justice - in effect, politics - to the neglect of the "faith and order" side of its mandate. The World Council of Churches, in sponsoring the so-called Lima document on baptism, eucharist, and ministry,

has thereby injected a dose of adrenalin into the Christian unity movement's rather sluggish bloodstream. It is all the more significant in that the Roman Catholic Church was involved in the preparation of the Lima text, although not a member of the council.

This does indeed narrow the gap between the ordinary Christian in the pew and the council, for here is a common statement of agreed doctrine which anyone can read for himself to discover the common ground he shares on fundamentals with the Christian in the other pew down the road.

If the World Council of Churches has a besetting sin, it is in regarding itself as an end in itself, rather than as a vehicle, no doubt one of many, to foster the greater unity of the Christian faith. It must suffer from all the limitations of a transitional and incomplete conception, with purposes left vague and goals undefined except in the broadest generalities. It is not unforgivable that it should at times prefer to denounce the ills of the world rather than consider the beam in its own eye, the disunity of Christianity to which it is itself a monument. It is only human to avoid the painful problems on one's own doorstep, emphasising instead those on someone else's. If the Vancouver assembly proves in time to mark a growth in maturity of the World Council of Churches, it will have found for itself a role more relevant, in God's time, than all the "relevance" of its utterances on political questions of the day, and more true to the original visions of its founding fathers.

EVERYBODY'S WEATHER

Rockall, Shannon, Fastnet, Dogger - the litany of our coastal waters, broadcast on the BBC's long wave service, long ago embellished the national romance of the British Isles' weather. Those broadcasts provide a model - one of the purest we have - of a "public good", a service collectively provided for the unrestricted consumption of mariners professional, amateur and chair-bound alike. But of course public goods are far from free: they are provided, at the taxpayers' expense, by civil servants on elongated salary scales. The time is long past when the costs of the public goods provided by the Meteorological Office as much as those of the other departments of state needed better accounting. The Rayner-inspired review of the Met Office which has now been published is entirely welcome.

There has been, it appears, a disparity between the Met Office's performance as forecaster and scientific researcher and as a cost controller. The Office has an admirable record as an innovator in the use of computer technology in weather forecasting (many are the econometri-

cians who should envy its record of a 35% reduction in objectively determined forecasting error during the 1970s). Less impressive are its techniques of financial management.

Charging the public for telephone calls requesting weather information of more detail than provided by broadcast bulletins seems a way both to tighten the Office's control of its costs and spread the costs of a public service more equitably. But the Rayner review team proves badly unimaginative, worrying about how telephone callers should be billed and leaping like a maiden aunt at the thought of jobbing builders posing as ordinary members of the public to get weather information for free. The solution is, given British Telecom's present level of competence, technologically banal and, given privatization of the phone network, commercially simple. The Met Office and British Telecom could come to a simple deal sharing the proceeds of an enhanced weather information service. Provided an emergency service - possibly operated, as at present in part, by the Royal Air Force -

remains available, telephone charges hold no terrors.

Yet, unwittingly, the Rayner review of the Met Office also shows the limitations to this type of scrutiny of public goods. There are important dimensions beyond costs and benefits. The multiple and open contingencies of defence are one; the strategic importance of the Met Office's service to the RAF some time ago put paid to the application of the extreme doctrine of privatization to weather forecasting. Another, less obvious, dimension is the "joy of the nation" - our incurable, insatiable appetite for broadcast weather information, a string to the nation's composition. We love those weather-people; those maps on the back page of the newspaper; those radio bulletins. To alter the arrangements for the Press Association, the papers and the commercial broadcasters would be mean and, since it would raise so little revenue, petty. To try to squeeze more from the BBC for its satellite charts and stick-on thunderclouds would simply shift the cost to another form of taxation - the licence fee.

Radioactive waste in N Atlantic

From Mr L. E. J. Roberts, FRCS

Sir, Mr Slater (August 4) represents our intended disposal of low-level radioactive waste in the Atlantic deeps as shortsighted and irresponsible. In fact, the UK's attitude is an eminently reasonable one and is consistent with our international agreements.

This waste consists of laboratory rubbish securely packed in the inner of two drums and surrounded by concrete. The actual weight of the rubbish is a tenth of the total. By no stretch of the imagination can this material be described as "deadly". The drums are safe to handle and they will reach the sea bottom intact.

Furthermore, the natural radioactivity of the North Atlantic is enormous compared with that in these waste packages. It is not surprising that no increase in radioactivity levels due to previous dumps has ever been detected near the disposal site.

The levels of radioactivity that could be disposed of in the north-east Atlantic every year for thousands of years without damage to human beings or marine life have been determined in a careful international assessment by oceanographers and marine biologists at the request of the International Atomic Energy Agency of the United Nations. The use of the prescribed site for these quantities has been endorsed by the OECD.

Our plans involve the disposal of only a few per cent of this long-term annual limit. Mr Slater's tactic is to call for review after review, but never accept the conclusions. We have offered him and his executive full explanations and discussions, and that offer is still open.

These wastes exist and must be dealt with. Those Government departments which are responsible for authorising waste disposal demand that, where a safe disposal route exists, radioactive wastes should be disposed of and not stored indefinitely. As part of a comprehensive strategy, land-based nuclear waste in the course of development, but will not be available for this class of waste for some years.

Advice from the National Radiological Protection Board has confirmed that sea disposal is the preferred option for these wastes, from the point of view of radiological protection. This conclusion has been endorsed by the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee, an independent national body which includes trade union members, most recently in its fourth annual report.

For these reasons we continue to believe that safe disposal of these wastes in the Atlantic deeps is the best policy to pursue.

Yours faithfully,
L. E. J. ROBERTS, Chairman,
Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive,
Atomic Energy Research Establishment,
Harwell,
Oxfordshire,
August 5.

Dinosaur ownership

From Mr W. G. Arnold

Sir, I believe I am right in saying that the foreshore of England up to mean high water mark belongs to the Crown unless it can be shown that the rights over it have been specifically granted away. Foreshore rights include wreck, groundage, etc. before the dissolution of the monasteries many of the religious houses, particularly in Suffolk, where I live, claimed these rights, which also covered all objects found on the foreshore.

After the Dissolution many estates with their foreshore rights were granted to lay owners, whose successors as lords of manors or borough corporations continued to exercise them. It is not clear that the rights were ever granted to the Crown.

It would seem, therefore, that the Keeper of Palaeontology at the Natural History Museum is probably wrong in his opinion, as reported in today's issue (August 3) that the dinosaur bones found on an Isle of Wight beach become the property of the finder.

Yours faithfully,
W. G. ARNOLD,
Church Street,
Woodbridge,
Suffolk,
August 3.

The lure of gold

From Sir Fred Hardman

Sir, Paul Routledge (*The Times*, August 4) quotes a member of the TUC, referring to proposed talks with the Government "You don't negotiate with the executioner."

Surely that is just what the victim did in a bygone age. Did not victims normally hand over a few pieces of gold and negotiate for a quick and painless execution? I feel sure Mr Tait would oblige, even without the pieces of gold!

F. HARDMAN,
Coppice House,
Colbrookdale,
Telford,
Shropshire,
August 4.

The nation's business

From Mrs W. H. Atkins

Sir, From my hospital bed, can I remind Mr. Kaufman (Reuter, August 8) that Mrs Thatcher already has an extra-parliamentary role?

She is, after all, a housewife and mother. Won't this do - or has she still got to take up sky diving to satisfy him?

Yours faithfully,
TINA ATKINS,
As from: Tamm Ward,
Salisbury Infirmary,
Fisherton Street,
Salisbury,
August 8.

Hospital patients who are turned away

From Dr I. W. Glick and Mr D. N. Offen

Sir, The medical staff at Whips Cross Hospital are at risk of being accused of transgressing the principle of free referral of patients across district boundary lines. They have indicated that this restriction is a policy which is abhorrent to them. The doctors have agreed to this proposal only because they have been instructed to reduce expenditure at the hospital in order to prevent a projected overspending of more than £350,000.

The district health authority and, initially, the regional team of officers agreed that to reduce the number of patients treated at the hospital is the only feasible way of balancing the books and agreed with our methods. The issue has now been publicised by the media at national level and the regional health authority has now strongly advised, and will probably instruct, the district management team to reverse its policy, yet it is unable to tell us how to cope with our workload within the financial limits of new cuts.

We say to the Government and administrative authorities: "Give us the money and we will go back to our traditional pattern of treating every patient referred, irrespective of their district origin."

May we also point out that the policy of the Department of Health and Social Security introduced some years ago, and still being pursued, of transferring money from what are considered to be over-provided districts to those financially worse off is further penalising Whips Cross Hospital and others like it for accepting cross-boundary flows of patients.

The financial credit for these patients only accrues to the accepting district over the next 10 years at a rate of 5 per cent per annum. In the short term there is a considerable financial penalty for treating patients from outside the district. This is presumably to stop cross-boundary treatment by deliberately reducing the allocation of the more active hospitals to enforce the referral of patients to their own local hospital.

Is this not in itself a free referral encroachment on the free referral system which the Department of Health and Social Security and the region claim to support? When these principles were introduced the reallocation of resources policy was only to apply to extra moneys that became available. Without publicly saying so the Department of Health and Social Security is now applying these policies to reduction in expenditure now being imposed, so

that districts like ours will have to bear a budget reduction of 5 per cent in the next three years, this in a service which spends 75 per cent of its resources on salaries. The Lawsonian reduction, amounting to £400,000, has to be found in the last six months of this year. What of planning?

The medical staff committee is proud of the efficiency in treating acute patients at Whips Cross Hospital, from anywhere. If patients in our own designated catchment area are denied quick access to our facilities because of extra district some consideration? Should Whips Cross Hospital begin to "export" patients to adjoining districts for non-acute problems?

We think the policy-making bodies need to re-examine their instructions to enable us to continue to serve our people in need and to make available to us the resources with which to do so.

Yours faithfully,
I. W. GLICK, Chairman,
Medical Staff Committee,
D. N. OFFEN, Chairman,
District Management Team,
Whips Cross Hospital,
Leightonstone, E11,
August 5.

Begging and choosing

From Mr D. M. Bernstein

Sir, I feel I must write to you concerning a most horrifying development within the past year concerning the N.H.S.

As managing director of a supplier to all the major teaching hospitals in the UK I enjoy the goodwill of their customers.

Recently we have been approached not once but many, many times to "donate" funds to various appeals for money for such prestigious establishments as Bart's and King's College hospitals, etc. They claim the Government cutbacks on their research funds mean they must solicit funds elsewhere and beg for money.

As suppliers, this puts us in an invidious position. As customers, it puts the beggars, for that is as far as they are demeaned, in a worse position.

Surely this particular Government can sort out its priorities and eliminate this monstrous situation. Yours faithfully,
D. M. BERNSTEIN,
Barrmill,
34, Wordsworth Road,
High Wycombe,
Buckinghamshire,
August 4.

Paid jobs for all

From Mr W. F. Wyldbore-Smith

Sir, In the opening paragraph of his letter (July 28) Mr Francis Bennion indeed raised the issue of this decade - in that, with advancing technology, "there will never again be paid jobs for all", although he might have added "traditional" before "paid". However, having raised the issue he did not go on and face it.

There are now many in our communities who have traditionally earned or expected to earn their living by giving their manual labour, whose jobs, and traditional prospects have gone for good. There are also many more whose jobs will disappear permanently over the next few years - e.g., many typists and clerks, let alone yard men, factory workers. Computerised technology will make all but the most skillful and adaptable redundant.

Assuming that we are not going to turn our backs on this technology, the question then is how are we, the doers, going to make available to great numbers of our fellow citizens the opportunity of a fruitful and useful life of service to their various communities and the means of earning their living.

The sure way to the task for the planners looking at the issue of people out of work - indeed the task for our society: not a dressing up of the statistics by calling a subsistence subsidy by any other name?

Cable TV franchises

From Mr Brian West

Sir, The point raised by the Director of the National Consumer Council (July 28) with regard to the 12 pilot cable TV franchises was taken up with the Home Office by my association soon after the White Paper was published and well before the guidance notes appeared. We argued that it would be entirely wrong for these franchises to be awarded later this year, out of the blue, as it were, with no prior public indication of who had applied and for what areas.

It is bad enough that the helter-skelter rush the Government has adopted on cable takes the selection process for these 12 just about as far away as one can get from the searching public scrutiny to which independent radio and TV applicants are subjected. The very least it can do is let people see who are the contenders before the choice is made.

I urged the Home Office on June 17 that immediately following the closing date for applications (August 31) the addresses of all applicant companies or consortia and the areas for which they had applied, I was assured that the Home Office thought this was an entirely reasonable request and would take it on board.

Thus, like Mr Mitchell of the NCC, I was also disappointed to find no mention of this in the guidance notes. On July 27 I asked the Home Office again for an assurance that this would be done and am awaiting a reply.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN WEST, Director,
Association of Independent Radio Contractors Limited,
Regina House,
259-269 Old Marylebone Road, NW1,
August 2.

Plan to restrict entry to Bar

From Mr Rudy Narayan

Sir, The Bar is being asked to consider restricting entry at source (report, July 28). Lord Justice Lawton's letter to you (August 6) speaks of the universities and polytechnics "probably having to help with the selection of candidates" and says that "somehow those responsible for selecting entrants to the School of Law will have to identify those with the requisite qualities" (my italics).

Beginning at the beginning, the Bar, so far as I know, is not only the smallest of the main professions but it is the only one which may seek to restrict numbers of entrants to its most important profession; secondly, it is the only profession which exercises physical control over the geographical locations of its members' business premises (ie, barristers' chambers can be outside premises owned or managed by the Inns of Court only with the permission of either the Bar committees or the local circuit).

Thirdly, the introduction of the necessity for aspirants to first acquire an "upper second" law degree is itself a strict filter upon would-be entrants. But now finally, with a target entry of 600 suggested and with the sure expectation that only 300 will actually enter practice (how does one know in advance exactly how many will survive?) academics and tutors may be invited, in the words of Lord Justice Lawton, to single out aspirants with "the wrong attitude to the law, the courts and the clients".

Historically, upon the facts, Lord Justice Lawton is wholly wrong; my experience over the past 15 years is that the profession has been obsessed with excluding certain persons from practice; blacks and women felt the full, blatant brunt of discriminatory practices in being refused places in chambers and blacks still suffer. Will discrimination now begin a long way before entry to law school?

One wonders about the rebellious but brilliant student leaders who exhibit at university an unpleasant tendency to criticise the judiciary or the profession itself and one shudders to think of the polytechnic that would accompany a brilliant orator who led a sit-in in the Dean's office.

I fear the worst. Those academics who may be asked to report on the suitability of potential barristers would obviously seek guidance from those at the head of the profession, who on the proper yardstick of measurement and those at the head of the profession would not want to encourage those who challenged their own attitudes and their own standards. They would seek acquiescence, not challenge.

Lord Justice Lawton presides over the Court of Appeal and one is surprised to find that even at this early stage he does not deal with any question of an appellate procedure entitling the student-citizen to seek first revision of such "reports" on his/her "suitability" and then to question the integrity and relevance of such reports before an appropriate tribunal.

Yours sincerely,
RUDY NARAYAN,
Justice House,
67/69 Chancery Lane, WC2,
August 6.

Police computer use

From Councillor Colin Thorpe

Sir, I read with interest the item by your Technology Correspondent, Mr Clive Cookson, July 23, concerning the use by the Lothian and Borders police force of a computer for recording information received in connection with the enquiry concerning the death of Caroline Hogg.

I must correct the statement made by your correspondent that this would be the first computer link between police forces in a British murder enquiry.

This police authority acquired an ICL CAPS 800 computer for use by North Yorkshire police in May, 1982. Less than one month after its delivery and before it was fully commissioned it was pressed into use to record information following the murder of Police Constable David Haigh at Harrogate on June 17, 1982.

In view of the connection between that murder and other crimes committed in Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire, terminals were installed in the incident rooms of those forces and connected via British Telecom lines to the North Yorkshire computer based at Northallerton.

All three forces were then making simultaneous use of a computer facility in the enquiry, which culminated in one of the largest armed police manhunts ever seen in this country, which came to be known as the Barry Peter Edwards, alias Prudom, incident.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN THORPE,
Chairman of Police Committee,
County of North Yorkshire,
27 George Hudson Street,
York,
July 26.

One swallow

From Mr Alan Neame

Sir, You report today (report, August 5) that an albino swallow has just been spotted nesting in northern Bulgaria. One such rare and lovely creature appeared at Hatfield in this parish in 1911. My father was so enchanted with it that he shot it.

Mounted in flight above a decor of dodder grass and, more improbably, sprigs of yew, it hangs in my study, as I sign myself, Yours, etc.

ALAN NEAME,
Trafalgar House,
Selling,
Nr Faversham,
Kent,
August 5.

(continued)

THE ARTS

Opera
Pavarotti's noble commitmentIdomeneo
Salzburg Festival

While Karajan's *Rosenkavalier* has scintillated in majesty at the Grosses Festspielhaus, next door at the Felsenreithalle there is a new *Idomeneo* combining as does Salzburg's present *Zauberflöte*, the talents of James Levine, Jean-Pierre Ponnelle and a stage backed massively by a sheer wall of native limestone cut in arcades. The invitation to the epic here is irresistible, and Mr Ponnelle is not the man to try resisting. If Glyndebourne has given us an intimate, carefully nurtured *Idomeneo*, however opinions may differ about the result, in Salzburg the opera is granted the monumental treatment.

Against the rock face Mr Ponnelle places a gigantic mask of Neptune, through the mouth of which the characters enter and exit as they go about their ceremonial action. The chorus is monolithic: its synchronous gestures, beseeching or pointing the finger, look terrible, but it makes a strong, urgent noise in second with Mr Levine's Gluckian perception of the score. Acoustically and visually the ambience is not one for relishing the ornaments and curlicues of Mozart's most splendid operatic music: even the four wind instruments in Ilia's concertaria aria sound pale. Mr Levine's robust, big-boned interpretation is therefore just, and certainly it becomes the opera better than Mr Ponnelle's attempted equivalent, where gravity becomes portentousness and everything is so excessively explained.

What also becomes the opera well is Luciano Pavarotti's Idomeneo, Mr Pavarotti is not exactly an obvious choice for this role, though he has done it before with Mr Levine in New York. His success, therefore, is all the more remarkable. Whatever the outstanding merits of singers like Ronald Dwyer, Peter Pears and most recently Philip Langridge in the part, it is good for a change to hear a red-blooded Idomeneo, even if that means minor accidents to the exquisite of recitative. Moreover, Mr Pavarotti brings to the unlucky king a nobility of commitment that begins by commanding respect and ends up winning one's intensest sympathy. There is nothing little in this Idomeneo. His great aria "Puer del mar" is a rage of might in which a big voice is conducted with the keenest concern, both for musical and for expressive niceties. It is a greatly daring and heroic interpretation.

Magnificent too are the ladies. For the first time in Salzburg, where *Idomeneo* was conceived, tenured and partly composed, there is a female Idamante, and a marvellous one in Trudelliese Schmidt. She is thrilling: an impassioned clarion in her first aria and a resolute executor of recitative. She also proves in twining with the softer beauties of Lucia Popp's gorgeous Ilia, how much this opera gains from having a pair of sopranos as lovers. It is a device of glorious decadence that has occurred to opera composers from Monteverdi to Ligeti, but that is nowhere more luxuriously applied than in this work. Luxurious it sounds too, with Miss Schmidt and Miss Popp making a nonsense of Mr Ponnelle's unaccountable change of their costumes in the first interval from the non-specific to full bejewelled eighteenth-century dress.

This is as nothing, however, compared with his handling of Electra. I cannot imagine how Elizabeth Connell might sing this part left to herself. Here she is stunning but utterly wrong, Mr Ponnelle has her do Electra as a mad thing, starting out from something like an Act V Ophelia and becoming in her last aria a rag doll, throwing herself about in convulsive movements and hurting out her song in howls and shrieks and mirthless laughter. Connell is so violently attuned to this characterization as to be scary, but of course Electra becomes merely an embarrassment if she is not maddened by jealousy and love but actually insane.

Lower down the cast-list the singing is more reliable than festively spectacular in the manner of Mr Pavarotti. Miss Schmidt, Miss Popp and, in her individual way, Miss Connell. Even so, William Lewis solidly justifies the inclusion of both Arbace's aria and Timothy Jenkins as the High Priest and James Morris as the circular voice hold their own in a performance where the grandiosities of the production and the less regrettable amplitude of the accompaniment throw into relief the voice's pretensions to omnipotence.

And that, in part, is what *Idomeneo* is about: the indelible mark made by something sung, the unfolding of a tragedy in stages of ever greater vocal flamboyance until the god himself is reached. It should all end, of course, with ballet and the singers silenced, but Salzburg, like Glyndebourne, omits the concluding divertissement. In any event, enough has been achieved.

Paul Griffiths



Pavarotti's red-blooded Idomeneo, with the Idamante of Trudelliese Schmidt

Television
Fighting
against
death

The second and latter part of *Mind Over Cancer* (BBC1) was concerned with death. One lady was celebrating in a hospice what she knew to be her last birthday - the doctors had told her that she had three months to live, and such was her faith in them that she followed their prognosis.

Other cancer patients decide that they will not die - a decision which can have Styphean consequences. One American pushed her life up hill each day, going through a routine of radiotherapy, chemotherapy and psychotherapy. But new lesions were found on her brain: she seemed very composed, although it was impossible to tell whether this was the result of shock or resignation. After trying hard to make polite conversation with her therapist, she broke down: the horror of the disease became visible then.

One way to survive, it seems, is to combat natural feelings of helplessness and attempt to control the cancer: one lady insisted that her tumour would disappear, and it did so. Another woman believed that her cancer had been caused by suppressed anger: she began to express that anger, and the cancer vanished. Others try techniques of "imagery", where the patient visualizes the shape of the cancer and then imagines its destruction by tiny creatures. The manner in which we take charge of our lives seems to affect the body's behaviour - when the personality gives up, the body gives up also.

All these cases came from the United States, and it seems that the American predilection for self-analysis, meditation and group therapy - quite apart from the tradition of self-reliance - has its rewards. But would they work outside that country? This programme suggested that cancer may be the biological expression of despair, but this might imply that the causes and cures of the disease reflect the assumptions of the society in which it appears. This is hypothetical merely; what was remarkable about the programmes was the spectacle of so many intensely courageous people.

Peter Ackroyd

● The Royal Shakespeare Company is to present the premieres of two major new plays at the Barbican this autumn. They are *Maydays* by David Edgar (opening on October 20 in the Barbican Theatre, with previews from October 14) and *Custom of the Country* by Nicholas Wright (October 19 in The Pit, previews from October 12). The directors are, respectively, Ron Daniels and David Jones, the latter here returning to the RSC after a spell in the United States.

● Dennis Russell Davies's appearance at last Friday's Promenade Concert was in fact his English public debut, not British, as stated on this page the previous day. He conducted Stuttgart Opera's presentation of Henze's *Boulevard Solitude* in Glasgow in 1977.

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Alan Bates contemplates Michael Gough's irresistible drag scene

Theatre

Excessive thematic richness

A Patriot For Me
Haymarket

London theatregoers planning a visit to this year's Edinburgh Festival with its "Vienna 1900" theme will find a fascinating appendix on the subject at home in the Haymarket. Transferred from Chichester with Alan Bates in the central role, John Osborne's chronicle drama presents the rise and fall of Alfred Redl, the brilliant officer in the Austro-Hungarian army who shot himself in 1913 after a long career as a double agent.

That society, and a critique of our own as Osborne saw it, is made to embrace rich characterizations and so many themes that it is a taxing task to see what lies at the centre.

Working up from negligible

beginnings by observance of army values, Redl finds that he is homosexual and, as success accelerates, paws it in promiscuity until his opposite numbers in Russian espionage blackmail him into treachery.

Homosexuality (another Osborne theme) in Franz Joseph's Vienna, where half the officer class turn up in drag at an annual ball hosted by an ancient baron dressed as Queen Alexandra, seems a little victory of individuals against society.

Osborne also shows, unusually for him, a central character in baroque prosperity, accepting the life-styles of a professional soldier and paralleling them with cynicism in his personal life. Bates marks the transition from the loving innocent beaten up by the accomplices of the first boy he sleeps with to the cynical, vicious exploiter of beauty and jealousy. As at

Chichester, I felt a detachment and even stagginess, sometimes, keeping him from a great performance; but the part suffers from the lack of focus resulting from the richness of themes.

Of the recastings for London, June Ritchie's Countess is the most unfortunate, sailing through her doomed affair with Redl in the bad old West End coquettish acting style. Michael Gough's Baron lacks the iron strength (and cutting edge) of Nigel Stock; but, as a coarse cabbage of a duchess, he is funny, telling and finally irresistible. In the Hofburg scenes, where fanfares and flunkies provide a sly pre-echo of the Baron's Mozartian drag fiesta, Harry Andrews's General has now reached masterful assurance.

Anthony Masters

The first Rostropovich Festival opens tomorrow at Snape, with four days of formal and informal music-making centred round one of the directors of the Aldeburgh Festival who, with his wife and family, seemed just too big to be contained within its bounds.

The reason for having a festival all of his own is not, of course, quite so simple. Rostropovich's appointment as one of the festival's directors coincided with his acceptance of the musical directorship of the National Symphony Orchestra of Washington - and the summer season there coincided with the Aldeburgh Festival. Rostropovich, for whom Aldeburgh and Britten are "the most valuable and precious things in my life", was determined to be more than a nominal director.

Stories abound of the early days of their friendship: of the first nervous meeting backstage with Shostakovich after a performance of his First Cello Concerto ("Britten and Shostakovich had been sitting in the same box, apparently hitting each other in the ribs with delight all the way through"); of the Cello Sonata, Op 65, that Britten wrote for Rostropovich soon afterwards; of the subsequent three cello suites performed at Aldeburgh in 1963, 1968 and 1974 and the Symphony for Cello and Orchestra which Britten conducted in Moscow. There are stories, too, of the Land Rover Rostropovich bought to drive back to Russia, which was christened at Aldeburgh with champagne and a one-bar cantata performed by Pears, Vishnevskaya and a cowhorn. And, when Rostropovich arrived in the West in May 1974, the first thing he did was to drive to Aldeburgh to play Britten's Third Cello Suite to him, while he was convalescing and revising *Death in Venice*.

Rostropovich remembers with particular affection the first British performance of Shostakovich's Fourteenth Symphony at Snape in 1969, conducted by Britten. "When Shostakovich heard the *War Requiem* for the first time, he told me he thought it was the best work of the twentieth century. Both men were utterly serious and dedicated in their approach. They were inside you, you felt that whenever you talked to either of them, Shostakovich admired the fact that in Britten each note had significance and meant something special - and it was the same of course in Shostakovich. That is why he dedicated one of his most economical works, the Fourteenth Symphony, to Britten and later we were to hear it dedicated his *Prodigal Son* to him."

Mstislav Rostropovich, too busy to give as much time as he wishes to the Aldeburgh Festival proper, has responded with characteristic energy and ingenuity by starting his own festival at nearby Snape. On the eve of its opening, he talks to Hilary Finch about his deep affection for what is still Britten country; and about his attitude to his native Russia

Repaying a debt of western welcome



The Rostropovich Festival, with its master classes, informal musical evenings and Russian tea party, aims to reflect the intimacy and to repay the family welcome that Rostropovich felt in the Jubilee Hall days of Aldeburgh. He and his family are participating without a fee "as a gesture in memory of my friendship with Ben", and the festival is to continue annually. Next year, Rostropovich plans to fulfil a promise he made to Walton, by performing his Cello Concerto, and to give the English premiere of the new Penderecki Concerto.

This year's grand finale, on

Sunday evening, is to be a rare concert performance, with Vishnevskaya, Gedda, Petrov and past students of the Britten-Pears School, of Tchaikovsky's one-act chamber opera *Iolanta*, originally written to form a double bill with *Nutcracker*. "It doesn't need staging - everything, all the scene changes, are written into the score. It's uncharacteristic of Tchaikovsky in that, unlike say *Queen of Spades*, it's very optimistic. It's a mystic, religious opera: when it's performed in the Soviet Union, the surgeons get to work on the text..."

Rostropovich is particularly

Urban Sax
Covent Garden Piazza

Among the several achievements for which Charles Ives's father, deserved to be better known was his habit of persuading several brass bands to march at once around a small American town, their sounds colliding in a random antiphony. Combine Ives with Christ, the chap who wraps everything from skyscrapers to the Great Barrier Reef in swathes of plastic sheeting, and you have Gilbert Arman, a French composer and conceptual artist whose speciality might be described as acoustical town replanning.

Arman's Urban Sax is a group about 50 strong, 30 or so saxophonists, a dozen singers, two vibraphonists, three guitarists, a bass-guitar and a gong-basher, which adapts its performances to outdoor locations.

For its London debut, the inaugural event of the 1983 London International Festival of Theatre, it chose to take on the precincts of the refurbished Piazza in Covent Garden, wisely, since its open spaces, street-crafts and diversity of low-

Music, outdoors and indoors

rise buildings provided the ideal topography.

Clothed in white-hooded boiler-suits like an SAS ski patrol, and metallic grey masks, and linked by closed-circuit radio headphones, the group began with a spectacular *coup de théâtre* two soprano saxophonists traded identical phrases, vaguely oriental in nature from the top of the Jubilee Hall and the old market building, while a pair of colleagues abseiled down the side of the hall on ropes. The remainder made their entrance on fork-lift trucks, throwing smoke-bombs and sounding small klaxons, until they reached a common rendezvous at a stage on the market steps.

There the saxophonists, the vibraphonists and the singers stood grouped below the guitarists, who performed from the market's balcony. As dusk fell on a beautiful evening, and the descendants of the old market's pigeon population wheeled in astonishment, the ensemble performed to the sort of crowd which would have kept Acorn-top Stanley in business.

Arman's surprisingly gentle, almost modest compositions variously recalled the systems music of Steve Reich (in the tinkling tuned percussion) and

Philip Glass (in the repetition of minimalist saxophone phrases), the bits of Ligeti's choral music used in 2001 and Sun Ra's neo-Africanisms. Arms and instruments were waved and shaken to suggest a post-punk production of *The Bacchae* as night embraced a most agreeable entertainment.

Richard Williams

BBCSO/Inbal
Albert Hall/Radio 3

Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto returned to the Proms on Monday newly pondered, newly shaped and stimulating many a new-found response. Oleg Kagan, Sviatoslav Richter's regular duo partner from the Soviet Far East, made his Prom debut in a performance as remarkable for its compelling unpredictability as for the assured technical finesse which articulated it.

What characterized and distinguished his reading was the sheer mobility of bow, arm and finger. Translated into sound, it made of the first movement's cadenza, for instance, a seemingly improvised dance of endless invention, bending,

springing, hesitating, tensing and teasing in turn. Eloquently filtered through Eliahu Inbal's baton, which would trace the line of an orchestral soloist here, exchange a prolonged thought with a veiled hint there, each musical idea would find its balance in a sureness of musical purpose reflected in the play-in of the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

It was, indeed, the violin's evening. Earlier, we had watched it hovering between concerto and symphony in a brightly etched, chuckling performance by a small section of the orchestra of Haydn's little *Symphony No 7, "Le Midi"*. And later we were to hear it rejoicing in its ripe, corporate identity in Dvorak's Fifth Symphony.

Here Mr Inbal would take the pulse of each movement, directing its momentum through a lithe, vital counterpoint of timbre, texture and tempo which released some particularly fine ensemble playing and liberated the sense of continuing and buoyant compositional growth at the heart of Dvorak's score.

Hilary Finch

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MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

Rothmans dips on bid talk

ACCOUNT DATES: Dealings began, Aug 1. Dealings end, Aug 12. Closing Day, Aug 15. Settlement Day, Aug 22.

The odds on a full-scale bid for Rothmans International from the American group Philip Morris are growing shorter. Reports in the market suggest that there may be a full bid for the group in the New Year.

Yesterday, shares of Rothmans slipped 1p to 113p where it is valued at £156m. But Philip Morris, which already owns nearly 25 per cent of the shares, must be impressed with Rothmans' performance since its appointment of Mr Vernon Brink as managing director in 1981.

Mr Brink was responsible for the profits surge in the Australian division from A\$7.7m (£4.6m) to A\$41.7m in five years and is now hoping for a similar performance from the group overall.

Last year pretax profits rose from £105m to £140.5m with currency fluctuations adding £30m to the final figure. But the underlying profits trend showed an increase of £18m, and for the current year the market is looking for £160m pretax.

Last week Mr Peter Bennett, analyst at broker Charles Stanley, recommended the shares as a strong buy,

highlighting the effects of management changes and the prospects of a bid from Morris. The only drawback to a bid is the 12 per cent stake held by Dr Anton Rupert's Rembrandt Group. But Mr Bennett says: "We believe it would fit Rembrandt's strategy to dispose of its holding, but even if a bid does not materialize the group's trading prospects make them a sound investment."

Shares of BP rose 6p to 416p, after 24p, yesterday as broker *Moffatt Mackenzie* upgraded its profit forecast from £660m to £640m helped by a better than expected contribution from *Sohio*. *WM* upgraded this week its second quarter forecast for *Shell* from £484m to £525m. The shares rose 2p to 598p.

Elsewhere, share prices put up another firm performance despite the overnight collapse on Wall Street where the banks

were busy increasing their interest charges by 0.5 per cent to 11 per cent. Selective support enabled the FT index to close near its high for the day 3.4 up at 724.7. The market's resilience continues to mystify many brokers who believe the firmness owes more to lack of sellers than to any real support for shares.

Among the leaders, those shares where American investors have shown interest again held the stage. *Bechams* rose 3p to 353p. *Glaxo* 7p to 915p. *ICI* 6p to 552p, while *Dunlop* held steady at 62p.

Glits showed few movements of note as the pound continued to gain ground against the dollar, closing 0.3 cents up at \$1.4940 on the foreign exchange. The latest money supply figures showing an increase of 0.75 per cent made limited impression on sentiment.

The Dublin Government is attempting to play down the

speculation over the latest oil find off the coast of the Republic of Ireland. Tests indicate a flow rate of 6,500 barrels a day which could provide the Republic's oil requirements over the next ten years.

More problems for *Novia* (Jersey) *Knit*, *Mark* and *Spencer*, which has always taken more than a passing interest in its suppliers' affairs, was disappointed yesterday in *Novia's* decision to close a fabrics factory in *South Wales* while the workers were on holiday. Yesterday the *Novia* share price was unchanged at 60p.

But Mr John Bruton, industry and energy minister, said: "The revenues even from an optimistic scenario would equal only a modest portion of one year's annual Government expenditure."

But the London and Dublin stock markets have been dominated by the demand for Irish energy stocks, many of which have seen the share price double overnight.

Others to find support included *Bula Resources* 1p to 23p, after 26p, and *Aras Energy* 14p to 66p, after 71p.

The Unlisted Securities Market, broker *Statham Duff* Stoop's latest venture failed to find the support of some of its predecessors including *Bio-lab*, *Latex* and *Metal Sciences*. *Protonics* Home, the travel incentive promotions group, opened at 27p compared with a placing price of 25p.

Printing ink specialist *Ask & Wiborg* tumbled 16p to 38p after the group announced that its talks with *Sun Oil* had broken down. *Sun*, which already owns 52 per cent of *Ask & Wiborg*, failed to agree a price on the rest of the company.

RECENT ISSUES

Company	Price	Yield
Atlantic Group 25p Ord (115)	136.5	13.6
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Atlantic Group 25p Ord (115)	136.5	13.6

BRITISH FUNDS

Company	Price	Yield
British Fund 10p Ord (115)	136.5	13.6
British Fund 10p Ord (115)	136.5	13.6
British Fund 10p Ord (115)	136.5	13.6
British Fund 10p Ord (115)	136.5	13.6
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British Fund 10p Ord (115)	136.5	13.6
British Fund 10p Ord (115)	136.5	13.6

DOLLAR STOCKS

Company	Price	Yield
Dollar Stock 10p Ord (115)	136.5	13.6
Dollar Stock 10p Ord (115)	136.5	13.6
Dollar Stock 10p Ord (115)	136.5	13.6
Dollar Stock 10p Ord (115)	136.5	13.6
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COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

Company	Price	Yield
Commonwealth 10p Ord (115)	136.5	13.6
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LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Company	Price	Yield
Local Authority 10p Ord (115)	136.5	13.6
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BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

Company	Price	Yield
Banks and Discounts 10p Ord (115)	136.5	13.6
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BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

Company	Price	Yield
Breweries and Distilleries 10p Ord (115)	136.5	13.6
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COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

Company	Price	Yield
Commercial and Industrial 10p Ord (115)	136.5	13.6
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Commercial and Industrial 10p Ord (115)	136.5	13.6

Sterling: Spot and Forward

Market rates	Forward rates
New York 1.4940	1.4940
London 1.4940	1.4940
Paris 1.4940	1.4940
Frankfurt 1.4940	1.4940
Stockholm 1.4940	1.4940
Oslo 1.4940	1.4940
Copenhagen 1.4940	1.4940
Helsinki 1.4940	1.4940
Stockholm 1.4940	1.4940
Oslo 1.4940	1.4940
Copenhagen 1.4940	1.4940
Helsinki 1.4940	1.4940

Effective exchange rate compared to 1975, was up 0.1 at 84.5.

Money Market

Rates

Clearing Bank Base Rate 9.5%

Overnight 9.5% 1 month 9.5%

Week Fixed 9.5%

Treasury Bills (100% Treasury)

2 months 9.5% 3 months 9.5%

6 months 9.5% 12 months 9.5%

Prime Bank Bills (100% Treasury)

1 month 9.5% 3 months 9.5%

6 months 9.5% 12 months 9.5%

Local Authority Bonds

1 month 10.0% 3 months 10.0%

6 months 10.0% 12 months 10.0%

Secondary Mkt. ECU Rates (%)

1 month 9.5% 3 months 9.5%

6 months 9.5% 12 months 9.5%

Local Authority Markets (%)

7 days 9.5% 1 month 9.5%

3 months 9.5% 1 year 9.5%

Interbank Market (%)

Overnight 9.5% 1 month 9.5%

3 months 9.5% 6 months 9.5%

12 months 9.5%

First Class Finance Rates (Mkt. Rates)

3 months 9.5% 6 months 9.5%

12 months 9.5%

Finance House Base Rate 10%

Other Markets

Australia 1.4940

Canada 1.4940

Denmark 1.4940

France 1.4940

Germany 1.4940

Italy 1.4940

Japan 1.4940

Netherlands 1.4940

Portugal 1.4940

Spain 1.4940

Sweden 1.4940

Switzerland 1.4940

United Kingdom 1.4940

United States 1.4940

West Germany 1.4940

Yugoslavia 1.4940

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Investment and Finance

City Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

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200 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1X 8EZ
Telephone 01-637 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 724.7 up 3.4
FT 100 Index 79.29 up 0.08
Baltic 19.705
Datastream USM Leaders
Index 58.33 up 0.17
New York Dow Jones
Average (latest) 1165.57
down 2.61
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones
Index 8,874.22 down 85.78
Hong Kong Hang Seng
Index 1020.53 down 7.47
Amsterdam 146.7 down 1.5
Sydney AO Index 582.9
down 9.8
Frankfurt Commerzbank
Index 940.80 down 8.80
Brussels General
Index 128.02 up 3.24
Paris CAC Index 130.0
down 0.04
Zurich SKA General 293.7
down 1.3

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.4930
Index 84.6 up 0.1
DM 4.0175 down 0.0025
FF 12.0750 down 0.0200
Yen 364.50 unchanged
Dollars 129.0 down 0.4
DM 2.6890
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4945
INTERNATIONAL
ECU 58.7892
SDR 70.5622

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9%
Finance houses base rate 10%
Discount market loans week
fixed 9%
3 month interbank 9%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10%
3 month DM 5%
3 month Fr 15%
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9%
Treasury long bond 8%
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme 7%
Average reference rate for
interest period 6 July to 2
August, 1983 inclusive: 9.989
percent.

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$412.8 \$413
close \$412.25-413 (\$276.25-
276.75) up \$4
New York latest \$413.00
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$424.50-426 (\$284.50-285.50)
Sovereigns (new):
\$96.50-97.50 (\$64.75-65.50)
Excludes VAT

TODAY

Interim: Britannic Assurance, Foreign & Colonial Invest, Rea Bros, Securitor, Security Services.
Finals: English Association, Ewart New Northern, General Accident, Property Security Invest.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

British Tar Products, The Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, W1 (noon).
Brown & Tawse, Kingsway West, Dundee (noon).
Chubb & Son, Hyde Park Hotel, 65 Knightsbridge, SW1 (noon).
Comfort Hotels International, The Rainbow Suite, 99 Kensington High Street (entrance Derry St), W8 (10.30).
LCP Holdings, The Pensnett Estate, Kingswinford, W Mids. (noon).
Pethow Holdings, Richeborough Works, Sandwich, Kent (noon).

● The new producer price indices for manufacturing industry have been released on 1980=100, not 1975=100, as shown in the table published in late editions yesterday.

● John Waddington, currently fighting an £18m takeover from Mr Robert Maxwell's British Printing and Communications Corporation, yesterday said sales for the first quarter were £700,000 higher than the same time a year ago.

● The British Steel Corporation has won a £10m contract to supply 30,000 tonnes of steel plate for British's Clyde oil field platform in the North Sea. Delivery of the high strength steel, which will be produced at the BSC's works at Ravenscraig, Lanarkshire and South Shields, is due to begin in October.

● Mr David Davies, the finance director and vice chairman of M&P, is to join Hongkong and Land Group as managing director to replace Mr Trevor Bedford who has resigned. Mr Davies will join Hongkong in October and will not be replaced as finance director at M&P.

● UK car output in July rose to 60,000 from 59,000 a year earlier, though production was down on the 108,000 reported for June.

Purchase creates market leader

Dalgety pays £58m in deal for RHM agricultural division

By Jonathan Clare

Dalgety bought itself the top place in Britain's multi-million pound animal feeds, seeds and crop control business yesterday.

In a deal worth £58m, it bought the agricultural division of Ranks Hovis McDougall, the food group, which has decided to concentrate on its packaged food interests.

This is the second largest deal Dalgety has ever done, topped only by the £70m acquisition of the food group in 1977 which gave it a slice of the pet food market.

Unilever is slightly bigger in animal feeds, but the size of the combined, merchanting division takes Dalgety to the top of the league.

RHM's agriculture business has a turnover of £50m but is expected to make profits of only

£5.4m this year. Dalgety's own agricultural division, with a similar turnover, made more than £11m last year. Dalgety's chief executive Mr Terry Pryce, expects to squeeze the same return out of his new acquisition quickly by putting in the same management which was used to streamline Spillers.

Mr Pryce said: Our business is very profitable and one of our highest yielders, but we don't have national coverage.

The RHM operation will give Dalgety coverage in Scotland, Yorkshire and central southern England where it is now thin on the ground.

Mr Pryce added that his yardstick was to double the return on funds employed in the combined business to 20 per



Pryce: 'no trouble raising the money'

cent, but declined to put a figure on those funds.

Regarded in the City as a slumbering giant since the Spillers fight, Dalgety has

moved fast in the last few days to sign agreements to relinquish control of its stock companies in Australia and New Zealand to raise cash for the British deal.

It is paying RHM £42m in cash, which consists of £27m for the equity of the companies involved plus £15m to repay intercompany loans. The whole package is valued at £58m based on the value of released working capital to RHM over a full year.

RHM is believed to have approached several potential purchasers so it could divest itself of the low-yielding agricultural business to concentrate on its successful food businesses in the United Kingdom and Europe. Some of the proceeds will probably find their way into RHM's troubled bakeries which are slowly being turned round. The sale of Dalgety's stake in its

New Zealand company on Monday raised £15m. Yesterday its Australian stock company was merged with Bennetts Farmers and Farmers Grazzios Cooperative, both local firms.

Initially Dalgety will own 65 per cent of this new company but its stake will quickly be cut to 49 per cent which will raise a further £5m towards the cost of buying RHM's business.

This divestment would be achieved sometime next year. The balance of RHM's price will be met by normal bank borrowings.

Mr Pryce Dalgety will have no trouble raising the money and again dismissed market rumours of a rights issue. The effect of the Australian and New Zealand sales will be to reduce gearing to about 60 per cent, a level where Dalgety is more than comfortable.

City Editor's Comment
Licensed to seek new identity

By the end of next week the members of a small group of licensed dealers should have completed their draft of the articles for their proposed Institute of Licensed Dealers.

They then plan to forward these to the Council for the Securities Industry, in the hope that the CSI will give the fledgling organization its blessing and might even extend an invitation to its first chairman to become one of its number.

If approval was to be given it would herald a change of status indeed for a group whose public image could scarcely be worse. It is by no means certain, however, whether this approval will or even should be given.

The driving force behind the proposed institute is Mr Tom Wilmut, whose company, Harvard Securities, is one of the biggest in the business, and the proposals as drafted reflect what he thinks should be done.

Much of this makes sense. He thinks, for example, that licensed dealers ought to make a market in the shares rather than simply match bargains; that performing this job function would require stricter liquidity requirements; that a compensation fund should be set up to protect investors in the event of the failure of a dealer; that the institute should act as an arbitrator in disputes between client and dealer; and that all dealers when making a market should be compelled to make a price in a certain minimum number of shares.

At first sight the proposals seem useful but it is an open question whether they go far enough, and specifically, there is no attempt to tackle the problem of dealers acting both as agents and as principals - holding stock or having options to purchase shares in a company which they are simultaneously selling to their clients.

This means that one of the biggest areas of potential abuse remains, and it is an open question whether the long term interests of industry and investors will be served by creating an institute which does not tackle this problem from the outset.

Gilts market fears subside

The gilts market was per- versely disappointed by yesterday's money supply figures, which showed a marked easing in the rate of M3 growth.

This was because expectations had built up in the past week that the last month's figure would be even lower than the 1/2 per cent announced yesterday.

Still, central government borrowing was in line with expectations and there was nothing to fear from the latest indications on bank lending to the private sector, so the markets were nevertheless relieved that money growth - even if still above target for the present period - appears to be abating and government borrowing is probably not heading for the huge over-run expected a few weeks ago.

It is, of course, quite possible that the public sector borrowing requirement will overshoot his year and the authorities may have to borrow even more than that if the money supply targets are to be met.

But worries prevalent a few weeks ago that the authorities are desperate to fund, which had been undermining the gilts markets, have subsided for the moment.

Despite the importance of US interest rates, the gilts market has recently been outperforming the US bond market and increasingly attention seems to be turning to the attractive yields available at the long end of the market at a time when the inflation outlook is encouraging.

Engineering looks grim, says report

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Britain's savagely depressed mechanical engineering industry, which has shed almost 250,000 jobs in seven years, has been warned not to expect any respite: even if the economy booms.

The picture of a permanently slumped-down industry, with hardly any prospect of the country retaining its pre-eminent world position in engineering, is presented by the latest short-term trends survey for engineering compiled by leading employers, trade unionists and civil servants.

It stresses the major structural changes in Britain in recent years, notably the emergence of North Sea oil as well as the effects of technology and increased foreign competition. "In view of these changes, and of the downward trend in mechanical engineering output during the last nine years, we have to consider seriously the possibility that future economic growth will largely bypass the industry."

"In that case there will be little or no substantial increase in mechanical engineering output even in the event of genuine and sustained economic growth."

The report, published by the Engineering Employer's Federation, contrasts with the results of the recent quarterly survey of the confederation of British Industry which showed that the recovery in manufacturing was continuing slowly, optimism was still rising and, while exports were faltering, demand and output at home were increasing.

The engineering survey,

however, underlines the patchiness of the recovery.

Mechanical engineering covers a wide cross-section of manufacturing including most of the "metal bashing" companies. Products range from pumps to power stations and the industry's total turnover last year was more than £60,000m. Big names in the sector include parts of GEC, Hawker Siddeley, John Brown, GKN, British Timken, the TI Group, NEL, Babcock and Vickers.

Much of the industry has been crippled by the recession but, says the survey, there are signs that total sales could increase, albeit from a very low base, by about 4.5 per cent in the two years up to the first quarter of 1985. This, it adds, indicates "at least a temporary respite" but the forecast upturn does not more than make up for the reduction in output in the last 12 months.

If the slight recovery occurs, it will be the first in the industry for 10 years but there are grave suspicions that it will not be sustained and could precede another slump late this decade. In the year to May, mechanical engineering fared worse than almost every other sector of manufacturing. Output was down more than 10 per cent compared with significant rises in instrument and electrical engineering, motor vehicles, chemicals, oil refining and coal products.

On the export front, sales have declined steeply. Meanwhile, employment in engineering is still set on a downward path. Since the end of 1979, it has fallen by 25 per cent to 674,000 in April.

Smith deal attacked by Lonrho

By Philip Robinson

Lonrho last night attacked House of Fraser's intention to offer a 60 per cent pay rise to Professor Roland Smith, its chairman, as "scandalous".

Under current proposals, Professor Smith would move from being part-time to full-time chairman on a five-year contract at £200,000 a year, and be eligible for the executive share option scheme.

With the package would go the use of a company flat in Trevor Square near Harrods, the group's Knightsbridge store, and a car with a chauffeur.

The pension scheme being offered is now confirmed as one with contributions from both sides which would give Professor Smith £25,000 a year pension at the age of 60. It would involve the company making an annual contribution of £28,000.

However, any attempt by Professor Smith to move from his part-time to full-time employment as chairman of House of Fraser, is likely to be opposed by Lonrho. The trading group has two directors on the Fraser board and owns about 30 per cent of the shares.

Lonrho doubts the wisdom of Professor Smith accepting such a long-term contract when there is still a dispute over making Harrods a separate company.

Lonrho wants Harrods demerged and has gained the support of a majority of shareholders. It is pursuing the demerger, despite the Fraser board's view that the issue is dead.

If Lonrho gets its way, then Professor Smith is likely to go. He has already said that the demerger issue was linked with a question of shareholder confidence in the board and if they wanted demerger then they didn't want him.

Mr Philip Tarsh, a Lonrho director, said last night: "For Professor Smith to tie the company up in this very expensive way is rather scandalous. He is at the centre of this demerger issue. If he accepts these proposals and loses, his departure could cause shareholders something approaching £1m."

ECGD still in black as reserves fall

By John Lawless

A drop in the Export Credits Guarantees Department commercial account reserves from £100.7m to £98m for 1982-83 will be announced next month.

Reserves in its Consolidated Fund, its Treasury-held cash reserve, which stood at £481.3m at the end of 1981-82, fell substantially. And those in its "national interest account" dropped from £380.6m to about £180m.

That account is used to back deals which are either too large to carry straightforward commercial rates, such as the £50m power station order from Hongkong, or, for instance a job-creating export contract for Northern Ireland from a risky market.

There has been consolidated speculation that the ECGD will have to draw on the Consol-

dated Fund for the first time since 1953.

But although the number of claims is increasing, ECGD will not have to draw on the Consolidated Fund.

There will be a "significant" cash depletion this year. However, as both accounts are run as a joint cash reserve, the surplus in the national interest pool will act as a safety net against any deficit in the commercial account - and prevent ECGD from becoming a borrower.

Other results will show that although ECGD's business is increasing - the total value of exports covered rose to more than £19bn in 1982-83, against £17.5bn the year before - premiums were outstripped by claims by more than two-to-one.

\$480m loan for Portugal

From Marinha de la Cal, Lisbon

The Portuguese Government and the International Monetary Fund have reached an agreement on terms which will enable Portugal to receive a \$480m (£322m) standby loan.

The main aim of the negotiations was to find a way to reduce Portugal's balance of payments deficit from \$3.3bn to \$2bn by the end of the year and

\$1.5bn by 1984. By the end of 1983 its foreign debt will reach \$15.5bn, one of the highest per capita in the world.

The austerity measures called for in the agreement are expected to produce a 1 per cent negative growth rate.

The government must reduce its budget and freeze investment in state-run industries

Crouch £3m loss hits shares

By Jeremy Warner

Crouch Group (pre-tax) £3.83m loss £3.45m (profit) £578,000
Loss per share 88.1p (profit 12.2p)
Turnover £21m (£18.24m)
Net dividend None (4.825p)

Crouch Group shares plunged 18p to 94p yesterday when the group revealed the full extent of the provisions it has made against property developments in Britain and the US. The board gave warning of the losses when Mr Ronald Clemenson was dismissed as group chairman in December.

Crouch has provided £1.8m - £400,000 more than it said would be necessary in December - against its five British developments, and £1.9m against two developments in the US.

The provisions have led to a group pre-tax loss of £3.4m for the year to the end of March, against profits of £578,000 the year before.

The directors have decided not to recommend a dividend, against 4.82p net last time.

Dollar slips in calmer trade

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

A measure of calm returned to currency markets yesterday with the dollar closing slightly lower in London although ending the day on a firm note.

The dollar opened lower in London after falling overnight and was traded in London at DM 2.6820 against the German currency.

But dealers said there was no fundamental change in attitude towards the US currency after Monday's rise in prime rates by leading American banks from 10.5 per cent to 11 per cent.

Short-covering after the overnight setback and the continuing currency up against yesterday and it closed near the day's highest levels at DM 2.6890.

Once again central banks were intervening to stem the rise, but on a limited scale and there was no sign of further concerted action on a grand scale yesterday.

The Swiss National Bank confirmed that it had intervened, but refused to give details and the Bundesbank was also reported selling dollars to protect the Deutschmark amid speculation that the Bundesbank council might introduce a special high Lombard rate tomorrow to protect its currency.

Foreign exchange dealers said that if US interest rates continued to edge up the dollar was likely to come in for further buying and there was too much

uncertainty to expect the dollar to weaken much.

The pound opened firmer against continental currencies, but eased back to close down against the Deutschmark at DM 4.0175 - drop of 1/4 pfennig. Sterling fluctuated against the dollar between \$1.4885 and \$1.4975, ending the day 25 points higher at \$1.4930.

Dealers said the pound was helped by the slight disappointment over the money supply figures which were not as expected. Government stocks ended the day little changed with gains of about 1/4% at the short-end of the market and long-dated stocks unchanged to 1/4% firmer.

Penta takes over Statler

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

New York's Statler hotel has been bought by Ascot Associates in a deal worth £31m. Ascot is a joint venture company half-owned by Penta Hotels, in which British Airways has a one-third stake.

The hotel belonged to a New York investment group headed by Mr William Zeckendorf, Jr. But it was managed by Dunley

Hotels, a subsidiary of Aer Lingus, the Irish airline. Ascot Associates will spend up to £13m to refurbish the 64-year-old, 1,700-bedroom hotel, a New York landmark.

The Statler is to be renamed the New York Penta Hotel and will be operated by Penta on a long-term management contract.

Cable nears US pact

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

Cable & Wireless, the British telecommunications company, is close to forming a joint venture with an American railway company to lay fibre optic cable for inter-state services.

The British company wants to devote "an eight figure sum" to tap the American market which accounts for about 40 per cent of the world's telecommunications business.

The disclosures are made by

Mr Eric Sharp, the Cable & Wireless chairman in the company's report and accounts which show record profits of £177m for the group in the last financial year.

Mr Sharp says the use of fibre optic cable will "add to the security of the expanding profit stream, in particular from the voice service business already operated by the group in the United States."

UK tops international rises

Tax takes 40% of British pay

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Taxes in Britain have risen more sharply than in any other leading industrial country over the past two years, in stark contrast to the Government's expressed desire to bring them down.

New international comparisons published by the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development shows that tax revenues as a proportion of national income jumped from 36 per cent in Britain to 40 per cent between 1980 and 1982, pushing this country two places up the international league table to rank as the ninth most highly taxed nation among the OECD's 24 members.

In 1979, when the Conservatives came to power, the share of taxes in the economy was only 34 per cent.

Top of the league table comes Sweden, where taxes accounted for half national income last year, followed by Norway (48 per cent), and Belgium and the Netherlands (44 per cent). France is sixth (44 per cent) but the other seven nations rank below Britain. Canada comes twelfth (37 per cent) and Italy

SHARE OF TAXES IN NATIONAL INCOME*

	1980	1981	1982 (provisional)
Sweden	49.57	51.31	50.32
Norway	47.05	48.49	47.80
Netherlands	45.83	45.47	45.37
Belgium	44.90	44.44	44.47
Denmark	45.36	44.26	44.49
France	42.69	42.95	43.73
Austria	41.19	42.54	41.01
United Kingdom	38.51	38.51	40.51
Germany	37.75	37.32	37.00
Finland	35.14	36.82	36.84
Canada	32.66	34.74	35.89
Luxembourg	36.53	34.12	33.33
Italy	32.87	33.74	na
New Zealand	31.49	32.78	34.03
Australia	30.59	31.55	na
United States	30.50	31.24	na
Portugal	29.27	31.11	31.12
Switzerland	30.78	30.28	30.98
Greece	28.64	29.22	31.72
Japan	25.93	26.86	na
Spain	24.16	25.24	23.84
Turkey	19.07	19.29	na
OECD Average	35.41	36.16	na

*gross domestic product at market prices. Countries ranked by the 1981 figures.

fourteenth (34 per cent in 1981, the latest figures available). The United States and Japan trail a long way behind, with tax revenue accounting in 1981 for 31 per cent and 27 per cent respectively of total income.

The rise in Britain's tax burden has been bigger than elsewhere largely because the recession here has been much deeper and the increase in unemployment much greater than in the rest of the OECD

Reardon turnover halves

By Our Financial Staff

The British merchant fleet is down to 23 million tons, from 50 million tons eight years ago, according to Mr Charles Chatterton, chairman of Reardon Smith, which runs a small fleet of bulk carriers.

"Serious consideration will soon have to be given by the Government as to how much this British lifeline will be allowed to fall," he said yesterday, "especially as, at the time of the Falklands, the taskforce was scraping the barrel for certain types of ships."

Mr Chatterton speaks from particularly painful and recent experience. Reardon Smith's results announced yesterday showed group turnover halved, to £13.7m, because of ships' sales, and extremely bad freight rates.

It sold four more ships last year, which left it with four. Its fleet, which two years ago was worth £48m, and £29m last year, would today fetch about £19m.

Reardon Smith sold one vessel for £4.6m last year - to record a book value loss of £2m. This helped produce a group trading loss of £1.76m for the year.

Mr Chatterton maintains, as he did last year, that 1985 may see the sort of recovery in freight rates which Reardon Smith (and so many others in the business) need if they are to get back into profit.

Rates are at about 1975 levels, he said. Its vessels are operating, with each losing between £800 and £1,000 a day.

Ellerman profit recovery will not affect sale

By Our Financial Staff

A recovery of £5.5m from interim loss to profit announced yesterday by Ellerman Lines, the private-owned shipping, brewery and travel group, will not affect its long-expected sale.

Speculators have at some time named just about every major British and foreign shipping group as a potential buyer. The seriously-interested list, however, is understood to be less than six long.

The latest results can

Pound aids Aaronson revival

By Wayne Lintott

The pound's weakening against continental currencies earlier this year has helped produce a sharp revival in the fortunes of Aaronson Brothers, Britain's largest chipboard manufacturer.

First-half profits for the six months ended March rose to £1m from £535,000 the year before. It was more than the company earned in the whole of last year.

Aaronson also benefited from 1980's £13m investment programme which has increased efficiency and enabled the company to compete for a greater market share. This is reflected in increased sales of £40.5m against £31m a year ago.

The company declared a 0.9p dividend against 0.6p a year earlier.

The board forecast a satisfactory profit for the full year saying that trading trends since March have continued to be favourable. Analysts are expecting the company to report sharply higher profits for the full year, within a range of £2m to £4m.

The difficulty the company faces is that over the last three years, trading has started well but a firming of the pound has pushed profits off course in the second-half. But the company is using the increased cash flow to lower borrowings and it says that at sterling's present levels it is still competitive against West Germany, its principal overseas rival.

Rotaflex profits up 47.5%

Light fittings maker Rotaflex managed a 47.5 per cent rise in pretax profits to £605,000 in the six months to end June despite the sluggish market. This thanks to better sales and cost savings.

Chairman Mr Michael Frye feels that if this can be done in present conditions, much more can be expected in better times and signals this with a 50 per cent rise in interim dividend to 0.9p share.

Although no market improvement and some deterioration, sales in the first half rose 9.2 per cent to £14.8m mainly due to continuing introduction of products. The company expects to manage this again in the second half, making £1m for 1983 against £843,000 after £338,000 of rationalization costs in 1982. This is no better than the market has hoped for

Ocean Transport and Trading Half-year to 30.6.83 Pretax loss £900,000 (profit £10.9m) Stated loss 6.3p (earnings 0.2p) Turnover £363.1m (£361.5m) Net interim dividend 2.15p (4.3p) Share price 87p, down 8p.

Ocean Transport and Trading never suggested that this year was going to be anything but difficult in the face of continuing world recession. But it is now on course for a £2m pretax loss for the year, far worse than anyone expected six months ago.

That pretax figure will also mask a deterioration in trading results because it will be boosted by lower interest charges after the £38m Straits Steamship deal paid off half group borrowings.

The deal with Keppel over Straits has allowed Ocean to pay off £47m of debt, mainly in the US and attributable to the stricken Nestor, the white elephant gas carrier which was largely responsible for an attributable loss of £47m last year.

Ocean's conventional marine business remains the problem area: the total trading profit of £4.7m is after a £6m loss from the marine side. But there are signs that Nigerian import restrictions are easing and the country is now producing oil to meet Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' quotas.

Barber Blue Sea Line is benefiting from the recovery in the American economy but so far the trade is westbound only with nothing going east.

Straits, sold last month, contributed a disappointing

£1.9m against £3.5m, the result of pressure on cruises and its engineering business. Against that, the Cory land-based fuel distribution business contributed £7.5m against £6.6m, but as always the first half - which includes the winter months - has seen the best of its results.

The City seems unclear whether it is grateful that the Cory business has stemmed the losses or whether it is concerned that Ocean has not diversified further and faster.

When the world economy turns up Ocean cannot fail to benefit. Whether shareholders holding shares with asset backing of 235p will wait is another question.

Smith & Nephew

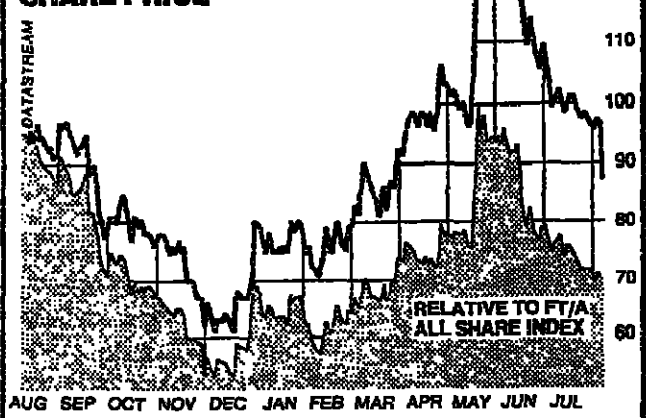
Smith & Nephew Half-year to 18.6.83 Pretax profit £19m (£15.0m) Stated earnings 4.76p (£3.89p) Turnover £152m (£132m) Net interim dividend 1.4p Share price 176p Yield 4% Dividend payable 11:10.83

Smith & Nephew's solid image is somewhat belied by the first half profits increase of 27 per cent and by a 19 per cent rise in the dividend. It is clear that the concentration, evident for while, on the higher margin medical products is paying off handsomely.

While better known for the Humble Elastoplast, Smith's real money-spinner at the moment is Op-Site, the artificial skin, especially suitable for burns treatments, which has sold well in the United States.

This success, of course, carries

OCEAN TRANSPORT SHARE PRICE



AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL

RELATIVE TO FT/ALL SHARE INDEX

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Smith & Nephew

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While better known for the Humble Elastoplast, Smith's real money-spinner at the moment is Op-Site, the artificial skin, especially suitable for burns treatments, which has sold well in the United States.

This success, of course, carries

with it a currency risk, but that hardly a worry at the moment.

The general evidence for the success in marketing higher margin products lies in the fact that sales rose by 17.5 per cent, rather less quickly than profits. Within the overall picture, however, Smith still has its problems.

It has maintained its share of the sanitary towel market, despite competition, but sales of the more profitable tampons have not yet fully recovered from the toxic shock scare.

Nivea remains a firm favourite and should have benefited from the sunny weather. The unfortunate Limara experience is well behind the company, and denim cloth, which suffered from overproduction, is back in profit.

Smith's great strength is that it is in relatively low technology areas. They do not require the long lead times and heavy investment characteristic of

and for the moment the stability will provide necessary stability.

For the mainly institutional investors who have rushed to take up the new issue, however, the excitement lies in sonics.

IR & T owns 25 per cent of Australian Sonic Engineering. This company has the exclusive rights for an area between the International Dateline and Pakistan to the sonic technology developed by a Mr Albert Bodine, of California.

The underlying principle of this technology is that a patented orbital oscillator creates sonic energy whose impulses are of sufficiently high frequency to separate molecules.

The principle can be harnessed to the drilling crushing and leaching of essential minerals. Many other applications are possible.

An infrasonic pile driver is claimed to be 3 to 10 times faster than a conventional pile driver, while the leaching process, which also employs cyanide for gold, recovers more in a fifth of the time.

The leaching process is to be used by OK Tech in Papua New Guinea and will bring the first revenue to AES.

The issue will raise A\$3.7m, and leave the public with 37 per cent of the company. The biggest shareholder is Ariadne, another quoted Australian company, with 42 per cent, and guarantor of a 10 per cent dividend for the first year.

The stock is not listed in London, but the jobbers will carry some. But the technology has yet to be tested commercially and such developments often prove costly.

COMMODITIES

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE	
Unofficial prices	
Official futures	
Prices in pounds per metric ton	
Silver in ounce per fine ounce	
Gold in ounce per fine ounce	
Platinum in ounce per fine ounce	
Lead in ounce per fine ounce	
Aluminium in ounce per fine ounce	
Nickel in ounce per fine ounce	
Copper in ounce per fine ounce	
Iron in ounce per fine ounce	
Steel in ounce per fine ounce	
Coal in ounce per fine ounce	
Oil in ounce per fine ounce	
Gas in ounce per fine ounce	
Wheat in ounce per fine ounce	
Barley in ounce per fine ounce	
Oats in ounce per fine ounce	
Rice in ounce per fine ounce	
Maize in ounce per fine ounce	
Soybeans in ounce per fine ounce	
Peas in ounce per fine ounce	
Beans in ounce per fine ounce	
Lentils in ounce per fine ounce	
Chickpeas in ounce per fine ounce	
Mustard in ounce per fine ounce	
Flax in ounce per fine ounce	
Linseed in ounce per fine ounce	
Castor oil in ounce per fine ounce	
Sunflower oil in ounce per fine ounce	
Vegetable oil in ounce per fine ounce	
Animal fat in ounce per fine ounce	
Wool in ounce per fine ounce	
Hide in ounce per fine ounce	
Skinner in ounce per fine ounce	
Sheep in ounce per fine ounce	
Goats in ounce per fine ounce	
Pigs in ounce per fine ounce	
Cattle in ounce per fine ounce	
Horses in ounce per fine ounce	
Donkeys in ounce per fine ounce	
Camels in ounce per fine ounce	
Elephants in ounce per fine ounce	
Rhinos in ounce per fine ounce	
Lions in ounce per fine ounce	
Tigers in ounce per fine ounce	
Leopards in ounce per fine ounce	
Jaguars in ounce per fine ounce	
Cougars in ounce per fine ounce	
Lynxes in ounce per fine ounce	
Bobcats in ounce per fine ounce	
Caracals in ounce per fine ounce	
Ocelots in ounce per fine ounce	
Sand cats in ounce per fine ounce	
Leopards in ounce per fine ounce	
Jaguars in ounce per fine ounce	
Cougars in ounce per fine ounce	
Lynxes in ounce per fine ounce	
Bobcats in ounce per fine ounce	
Caracals in ounce per fine ounce	
Ocelots in ounce per fine ounce	
Sand cats in ounce per fine ounce	

SILVER	
Cash	753.00-84.50
Three months	800.00-85.00
Six months	810.00-90.00
One year	820.00-100.00
ALUMINIUM	
Cash	1050.00-47.00
Three months	1060.00-50.00
Six months	1070.00-53.00
One year	1080.00-56.00
NICKEL	
Cash	3200.00-01.00
Three months	3300.00-04.00
Six months	3400.00-07.00
One year	3500.00-10.00
COPPER	
Cash	100.00-10.00
Three months	101.00-13.00
Six months	102.00-16.00
One year	103.00-19.00
IRON	
Cash	100.00-10.00
Three months	101.00-13.00
Six months	102.00-16.00
One year	103.00-19.00
STEEL	
Cash	100.00-10.00
Three months	101.00-13.00
Six months	102.00-16.00
One year	103.00-19.00
COAL	
Cash	100.00-10.00
Three months	101.00-13.00
Six months	102.00-16.00
One year	103.00-19.00
OIL	
Cash	100.00-10.00
Three months	101.00-13.00
Six months	102.00-16.00
One year	103.00-19.00
GAS	
Cash	100.00-10.00
Three months	101.00-13.00
Six months	102.00-16.00
One year	103.00-19.00

RUBBER	
Cash	800.00
Jan	804.00
Apr	797.00
July	822.00
Oct	832.00
Jan	859.00
Apr	876.00
July	892.00
Oct	916.00
Vol	20
Tone: Quietly steady.	
COCOA	
Cash	1558.00
Dec	1610.00
Mar	1600.00
May	1601.00
July	1608.00
Oct	1610.00
Dec	1610.00
Vol	4
Tone: Steadier.	
COFFEE	
Cash	1690-164
Dec	1675-165
Jan	1645-164
Mar	1645-164
May	1597.00
July	1597.00
Oct	1572-156
Vol	1.65
Tone: Quietly steady.	

London's safety policy hits its world business

Base Loading

Effectively it is putting into law that which the exchange has drawn up and policed on a non-regulatory basis for years and

A priority will be how to dismantle fixed dealing charges. Current thinking is that the process will take much less than

Dismantling from this direction would mean that the small investor would be last in line to feel the abolition of minimum

The link is that once fixed commissions are scrapped, so is

The one major big influence which will determine whether there is smooth is the Bank

Olympic Holidays: Mr Christopher Lawson, market research promotions and general marketing adviser, Mr Norman Strauss, strategic planning adviser, and

“ Within the framework of a

**The professionals
with the personal touch**

Chemical Bank, London

Marston, Thompson & Evershed p.l.c.
Burton upon Trent

[illegible]

est 10, 1983 London
Citibank, N.A. (CSSI Dept), Agent Bank

August 10, 1983 London
By: Citibank, N.A., (CSSI Dept), Agent Bank

CRICKET

Weary Essex lose sight of crucial victory as Middlesex score 634

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

CHELMSFORD: Essex (7pts) drew with Middlesex (4) in a crucial championship victory over Middlesex on Saturday evening, but a distant memory by the time the match ended yesterday. Essex by then were footsore and weary. Middlesex having had them in the field, in unbroken sunshine, for five full sessions of play. Middlesex's second innings score of 634 for seven was only eight runs short of their county record.

After Barlow and Radley had added 210 for the second wicket, Gattling and Embury made 263 together for the fifth. Middlesex, therefore, are still 22 points clear of Essex at the head of the table, with a match in hand of them. With a month of the season left, though, there is plenty of time for that to change.

For their next two matches, while the Third Test is being played, Middlesex will be without Gattling, Edmonds and Cowans, as well as Butcher. Essex will have Foster missing and also Pringle, whose absence yesterday with a broken finger - he had it pinned against his hand by Williams on Monday morning and could be out for the rest of the season - was obviously a big help to Middlesex in saving the match.

For two days and a half the cricket was always absorbing and often eventful. I doubt whether there has ever been a much larger weekday crowd at Chelmsford, other than on a Bank Holiday, than there was on Monday, even in the golden days of 1947 or in 1979 when Essex won their one and only championship.

Only the greenness of the pitch and its lack of pace jarred with me. These are the high summer days when not only the farmers but the spinners too should be reaping their harvest on hard brown pitches. Instead, Ray East was left out by Essex and of the 27 wickets to fall 26 went to the faster bowlers.

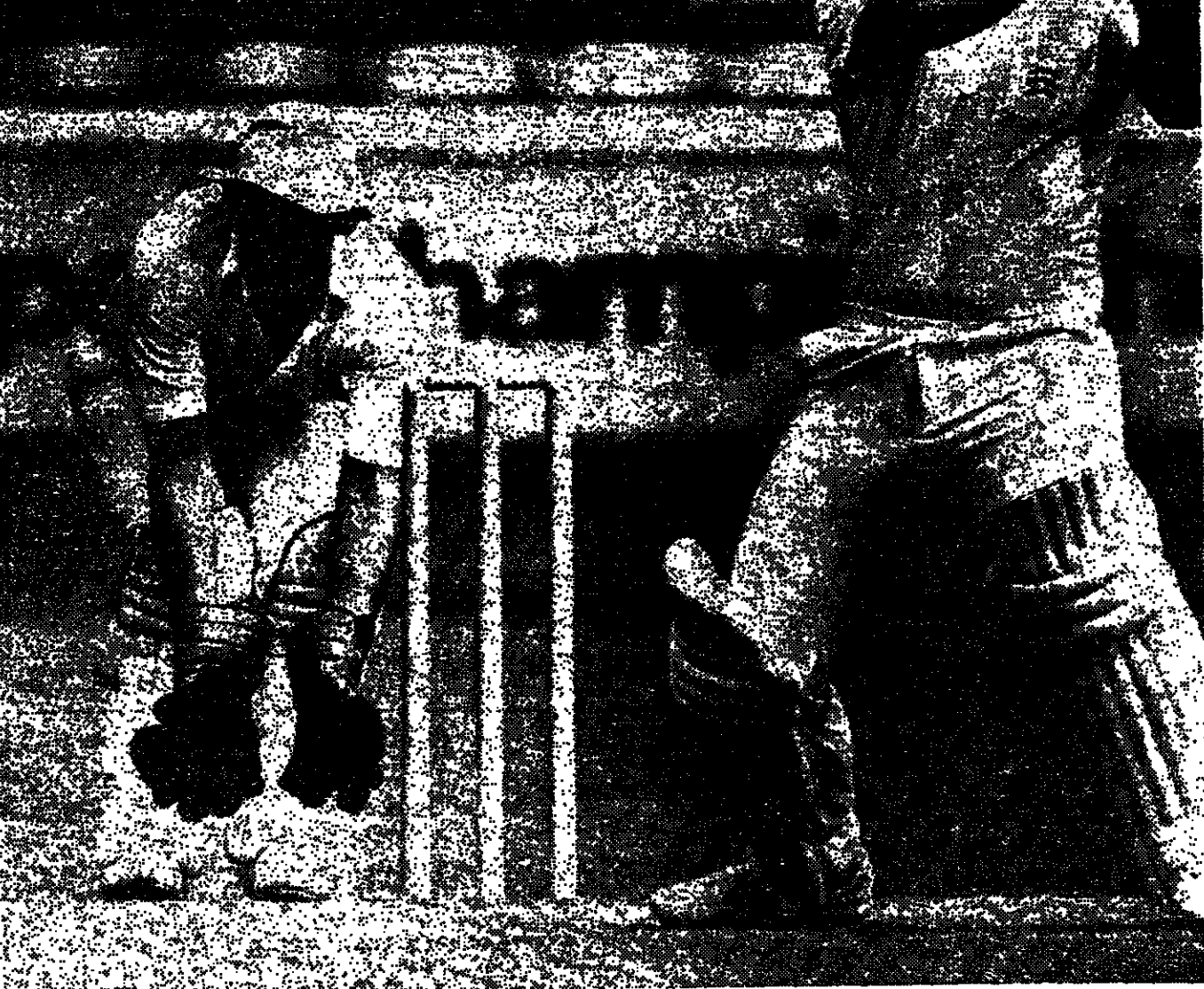
The pitch was no earthly good to Essex, unfortunately. To Essex, Foster needs something with some bounce in it. On this one even Embury, while making the highest score of his career, was hooking his "bumpers" first bounce for four. With Pringle out of action, Lever bowled for most of yesterday morning - 15 overs for 24 runs and the wickets of Radley, caught at the wicket down the leg side, and Ellis, caught at long leg, falling for the three card trick. This was a capital piece of bowling by Lever.

With Afield having had Barlow stumped, Middlesex, at 163 for four, were in some trouble. Barlow is playing better than for a long time. This was his third hundred of the season, and on Saturday, when Middlesex were being bowled out for next to nothing, he carried his bat. In 1982 he failed to make a first-class fifty. He may rank as one of Brearley's few failures. Afield now joined him down the wicket and beat him with turn.

This new ball came at a good time for Essex, with Radley and Barlow just out. In the event, Ellis was out soon after it was taken and more than once Gattling might have been. Only Embury was unconcerned by it. For his first half hour Gattling appeared formidable. Once he got the fill of things, he did much as he pleased. His hooking was wickedly powerful.

By lunch Middlesex were 296 for four. By three o'clock the match could have been revived only by an altruistic declaration from Gattling. On so dead a pitch Middlesex could have forced a win only setting Essex a target that was just within their reach, and even then it would have been the very longest of shots.

The evening, therefore, was mainly academic, if somewhat eccentrically so. Gattling reached his fourth hundred in his first season as captain of Middlesex. His 160, made in 204 minutes, contained two sixes and 18 fours. Embury's hundred, the second he has made, confirmed his increasing stature as an all-rounder. To keep themselves amused, and at the same time boost their over-rate, Essex ran out through 57 overs in 80 minutes after tea. Most of these were bowled by Post and Gooch off runs of two or three yards. Essex did everything at the double - including I imagine, getting under the showers when it was all over.



The bat, and hat, of a bounty hunter: Gattling on the way to his 160 (Photograph: Chris Cole)

Farcical draw as Yorkshire do their utmost to snatch defeat

By Peter Ball

HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire (7 pts) drew with Lancashire (4) in a farcical draw. The pianist, Bert, in Lancashire's Leeds Hotel, was waxing nostalgic in the bar late on Saturday night. "It's not the same nowadays," he lamented. "Not like the days when we had Hutton Sutcliffe and Leyland and you had Paynter and Washbrook. There was some great contests between some great teams. You had to really graft for your runs, none of this Sunday nonsense. Mind, they mostly finished as draws."

Bert, of course, has a point, as a glance at the championship table reveals. But although the supporters now throng to Headingley for the despised Sunday matches, while yesterday's last rites were played out before a sparse crowd, one tradition remains constant. They still end in a draw.

Few, however, can have contained quite such an element of farce as this one. Yorkshire doing their damndest to snatch defeat in a way which would have been there to witness it.

Set to score 296 in 155 minutes, a task which, in the context of a roses match, could not be viewed as a serious prospect, Yorkshire had quickly reached 35 for two in the last over before the final 20, in spite of the loss of Boycott early for the second time in the match, the draw seemed secure. Somerset again demonstrated his straight bat and straight drives, and in the press box.

plans were being made for an early departure to Worcester, Ebbw Vale, or, in most cases, Weston-super-Mare.

Then, in that fateful over, Moxon edged O'Shaughnessy to slip. Even that seemed only mildly interesting until Moxon chose to show his feelings about the declaration by sending in his tailenders, while he himself changed into civilian clothes. It was a decision which briefly threatened to haunt him for the rest of his days, and even now to cause him a few sleepless nights.

O'Shaughnessy, who in normal circumstances should already have been content with his lot, having scored his maiden hundred in the best place possible for a Lancastrian, against Yorkshire at Headingley, now added some really remarkable bowling to his day. Taylor and Dennis became Moxon's sacrificial victims, to leave O'Shaughnessy with the startling figures of 6-1-3. Did Boycott or Statham ever manage the like?

Simmons immediately weighed in with the wicket of Sharp, who had batted 68 minutes for six, and at 60 for six, with 15 of the last 20 overs remaining. The Yorkshire chairman, who had been so critical of Clive Lloyd's decision to delay the declaration, had more pertinent matters closer to home to worry about.

That, however, brought some genuine batsmen back on to the field, and Love and Bairstow went some way to ensure that such nonsense did not continue, although the spurious excitement revived

when Bairstow swept Simmons high to square leg with seven overs remaining. Carrick denied Lancashire further success, and if honour was not satisfied, tradition was.

Lancashire: First Innings 344 (D Lloyd 78, J Simmons 52).

Second Innings
D Lloyd c Bairstow b Moxon 190
J Simmons c Bairstow b Moxon 129
G Fowler c Bairstow b Taylor 76
J Bairstow c Bairstow b Taylor 50
D P Hughes not out 9
Extras (b 1, lb 1, w 1) 3
Total (6 wickets dec) 256

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-130, 3-291, 4-344, 5-344, 6-344, 7-344, 8-344, 9-344, 10-344, 11-344, 12-344, 13-344, 14-344, 15-344, 16-344, 17-344, 18-344, 19-344, 20-344, 21-344, 22-344, 23-344, 24-344, 25-344, 26-344, 27-344, 28-344, 29-344, 30-344, 31-344, 32-344, 33-344, 34-344, 35-344, 36-344, 37-344, 38-344, 39-344, 40-344, 41-344, 42-344, 43-344, 44-344, 45-344, 46-344, 47-344, 48-344, 49-344, 50-344, 51-344, 52-344, 53-344, 54-344, 55-344, 56-344, 57-344, 58-344, 59-344, 60-344, 61-344, 62-344, 63-344, 64-344, 65-344, 66-344, 67-344, 68-344, 69-344, 70-344, 71-344, 72-344, 73-344, 74-344, 75-344, 76-344, 77-344, 78-344, 79-344, 80-344, 81-344, 82-344, 83-344, 84-344, 85-344, 86-344, 87-344, 88-344, 89-344, 90-344, 91-344, 92-344, 93-344, 94-344, 95-344, 96-344, 97-344, 98-344, 99-344, 100-344, 101-344, 102-344, 103-344, 104-344, 105-344, 106-344, 107-344, 108-344, 109-344, 110-344, 111-344, 112-344, 113-344, 114-344, 115-344, 116-344, 117-344, 118-344, 119-344, 120-344, 121-344, 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1009-344, 1010-344, 1011-344, 1012-344, 1013-344, 1014-344, 1015-344, 1016-344, 1017-344, 1018-344, 1019-344, 1020-344, 1021-344, 1022-344, 1023-344, 1024-344, 1025-344, 1026-344, 1027-344, 1028-344, 1029-344, 1030-344, 1031-344, 1032-344, 1033-344, 1034-344, 1035-344, 1036-344, 1037-344, 1038-344, 1039-344, 1040-344, 1041-344, 1042-344, 1043-344, 1044-344, 1045-344, 1046-344, 1047-344, 1048-344, 1049-344, 1050-344, 1051-344, 1052-344, 1053-344, 1054-344, 1055-344, 1056-344, 1057-344, 1058-344, 1059-344, 1060-344, 1061-344, 1062-344, 1063-344, 1064-344, 1065-344, 1066-344, 1067-344, 1068-344, 1069-344, 1070-344, 1071-344, 1072-344, 1073-344, 1074-344, 1075-344, 1076-344, 1077-344, 1078-344, 1079-344, 1080-344, 1081-344, 1082-344, 1083-344, 1084-344, 1085-344, 1086-344, 1087-344, 1088-344, 1089-344, 1090-344, 1091-344, 1092-344, 1093-344, 10

Anxiety of Scots about salmon

By Conrad Voss Bark

Bookings are now falling off for next season's salmon fishing in Scotland as a result of three bad years of spring and summer runs in succession. Although this August's runs have picked up a little in some rivers the only hope this season is for a good autumn run, which opened on some of the later rivers last year.

Some of the hotels and estates are now advertising vacant seats in the coming months in the hope of picking up business, but the outlook for the whole of Scotland is gloomy, according to an unofficial survey in *Fish and Salmon* magazine, visiting fishermen anglers generally about 40 per cent annually for Scottish trout and the average salmon fisherman landing about 2460 a visit. About a fifth of the total of Scottish tourist income comes from salmon fishing, which is pretty high, and if it drops in that would have serious effects on the economy.

Typical of the many reports running in from the Scottish rivers is one from one well-known fisherman:

"This season I have fished good days at good times on the Tay, Dee and Spey, and the depression among anglers is perhaps the saddest feature. Apart from a couple of nice trout, I caught nothing (though I lost a large fish on the Dee in almost total darkness probably because of my overturned knot in my hand) - in 10 days multiplied by four weeks - only two salmon caught. I think I may blame the foreigners for this and ourselves more - Perthshire, greedily 'legitimate' it is, and poachers, in that order."

The Salmon and Trout Association in London, until now the national organisation which represented anglers, both commercial and recreational, has modified its policy and is well on the way to abandoning its interests of the nets.

The SATA's new chairman, David Spence, and his secretary, Don Thompson, are revisiting the association's policy to protect the anglers in their fight against commercial fishing which they believe is having effects out of all proportion to what it had when first the nets were more plentiful. They point to the experience of Iceland where the number of salmon caught by anglers has doubled in just over a year, partly as the result of a fishing ban in coastal waters.

However, it is not only fishermen, but also anglers who are turning the Atlantic salmon into an endangered species. Their habitat is increasingly under threat from pollution. Unusually large numbers of salmon fry are known to have died as a result of the taking of herbicides and sewage into rivers and spawning banks.

Scientists from Sweden - where acid rain has destroyed fish life in several thousand lakes - will be attending a conference on acid rain at Two Lakes in Hampshire on October 9, he attended by fishermen and other managers who will be giving accounts of local acidity in rivers in the Scottish lochs. Among the speakers will be scientists from Canada and Norway.

Lodges face six months out after operation

Back injury threat to Langan's career

David Langan, the Birmingham City full back, requires a serious back operation which could threaten his career. The Republic of Ireland international has been told that the damage to the base of his spine requires a bone graft. He will miss probably the first six months of the season.

Langan, who was put on the transfer list by Birmingham during the summer after refusing to accept a wage freeze, broke down at the start of pre-season training. "Every time I went to kick the ball I had a serious pain at the base of my spine," he said.

Millwall's pre-season programme of matches is in ruins following crowd trouble in their game at Tonbridge last Saturday. Three clubs have pulled out of friendly fixtures because of fears of disturbances.

Crabthorn and Maidstone United have cancelled their matches after consultation with local police and now Dagenham have told Millwall that next Monday's game at the Victoria Ground will have to be cancelled.

Eric Ryan, the Dagenham secretary, said: "We are not going to risk having crowd trouble in a friendly match".

Millwall were due to play at Carshalton in the north Surrey suburbs last night but the game was cancelled late on Monday. "We were advised by local police that the game should be called off", John Carpenter, a Carshalton official, explained.

"We pointed out that at such late notice it was very likely that Millwall supporters would still come to the ground not having heard the game was cancelled. However, the police informed us that they would be able to deal with any problems that arose outside the ground".

Swansea City and FC Magdeburg of East Germany will play their two preliminary round matches in the European Cup Winners' Cup on August 24 in Swansea and on August 31 in Magdeburg. The winners will play Barcelona.

Andy Higginbottom, an 18-year-old midfielder released by Chesterfield of the third division, has been signed by Everton of the first division.

Colchester United have taken on two player-coaches, Stewart Houston, the former Manchester United and Scotland full back, will be the deputy to the manager, Cyril Leake. Mike Walker, the Westman goalkeeper, will become the reserve team coach.

Lodz have lots of zlotys

Warsaw (AFP) - A record transfer fee paid by Widzew Lodz has outraged critics in Poland. Lodz have bought Dariusz Dziekanowski, a center forward from Gwardia Warsaw, for 21 million zlotys (£145,000), an enormous fee by traditional standards in Poland, where football is theoretically an amateur game. But the army newspaper, *Zolnierze Wolnosci*, called the fee "another step towards the moral degradation of our football, which exists in a structured economic system".

Widzew are reported to have spent another 13m zlotys (\$90,000) on four other players during the close season. The club can afford the fees after receiving £1.3m for Zdzislaw Boniek from Juventus last year and \$35,000 for the recent sale of Mirosław Tokmal and Krystof Sarlit to French clubs.

There are now 30 Polish footballers playing professionally in France, as well as nine in Belgium, eight in the United States, seven in Italy, Austria and West Germany, five in Sweden and two in Italy.

A few milestones along the road towards an uncertain future

GloUCEstershire Road: a history of Gloucestershire County Cricket Club, By Graham Parker (Fellham Books, £8.95).

There have been several good books about Gloucestershire cricket since the county was founded in 1873. One of the best is "The Road to Nowhere", a "definitive", when asked of a book. When Graham Parker was asked to write a history of Gloucestershire which would be definitive he accepted the invitation with reluctance. He has written a book, "definitive", when asked of a book. When Graham Parker was asked to write a history of Gloucestershire which would be definitive he accepted the invitation with reluctance. He has written a book, "definitive", when asked of a book.

Parker, a kind, witty and scholarly man, has spent most of his working life as a schoolmaster but played quite a lot for Gloucestershire, successfully, in Cambridge vacations and school holidays; and, after early retirement from the game, became Gloucestershire's secretary, later secretary-manager, for some years.

The period of which he writes best is that which he experienced himself, naturally enough, although he has done some close research on the early years, notably about the extraordinary Midwinter; the only man to have played for England against Australia and Australia against England. W G Grace removed Midwinter from an Australian side when he was about to take the field at Lord's and carried him off to play for Gloucestershire at the Oval.

Otherwise, Parker is not able to add much to the period of the Graces. Although much has been written about them they remain caricatures rather than real people.

The detail of character obscured by anecdote and statistic. I think the only chance that we might ever be able to understand the Grace family in its own terms is to decide to write a novel about them.

Of the most recent times Parker writes a little sadly. He recognizes the necessity for commercial backing if the game is to survive at first-class level. But does not rejoice in it. He ends on a slightly despondent note: "Gloucestershire will be travelling on along their Road, with pride in their past but with a wavering confidence in their future".

When a few years ago Gloucestershire sold their ground to the Phoenix we were told that it had "assured the future". But in the last few years we have had further plummy falls about their desperate financial situation and how £50,000 or so must be raised. Gloucestershire will go bust. I cannot take these worries too seriously.

Gloucestershire's present championship reached its present dimensions in 1921 and since then I doubt if a season has passed without some county or another, perhaps several at a time, proclaiming it was on the verge of collapse. But none have collapsed. However, I suppose one day a county treasurer will cry "woah!" and there will actually be a wall there.

Gloucestershire have not been one of the more successful counties. Strictly speaking, they have never won the championship since they gave it to them for 1873 (jointly), 1874, 1876 and 1877 but in those days it was still unofficial, run by the press so far as it was run by anyone at all.

Yet the county have produced, or in some cases imported, some of the greatest of players: W G Jessop and Hammond up to the Second World War and Tom Graverty and Zahner since give you a start on the batsmen. Charlie Parker and Goddard will serve for the spinners. Procter for the all-rounders. One of these and many more the author dwells gracefully. His section on the extraordinary slow left-hander, Charlie Parker, whom he obviously came to know well, is about the best in the book.

He is curiously ambivalent about Hammond. Of Hammond's appointment as England captain in 1938, he writes: "This proved to be just the challenge to stimulate and concentrate his supreme talents. With little experience, he was to confound his critics". A few pages later, of the 1946-47 tour to Australia, he writes that Hammond "was criticized heavily for his uncommunicative approach to his own players (for England), a capital administrator, a capital fellow to know; and he has written a capital book."

Hammond: a curious ambivalence

Alan Gibson

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Dying wife has baby in plane

From Tony Dubouin
Melbourne

A woman terminally ill with cancer of the liver gave birth to a boy in the aisle of a British Airways Boeing 747 moments after it landed at Melbourne's Tullamarine airport yesterday.

Two ambulance men boarded the aircraft when it touched down from Sydney on the last leg of its 27-hour flight from Britain to deliver the 10-week premature child to Mrs Sheryl Skirton, aged 35.

Mrs Skirton, a nurse, had travelled from Bristol with her husband Christopher and son Vincent, aged 3, to spend the last few months of her life near her parents who live in the Melbourne suburb of Mooroolbark. She had planned to have the baby by caesarian section when it was due in October.

Only a few weeks ago Mrs Skirton had been told by doctors in England that she had only between three and six months to live.

Doctors said that only immediate radiotherapy could prolong her life but that the baby would have to be aborted. After talking it over with her husband she decided to put the baby's life first.

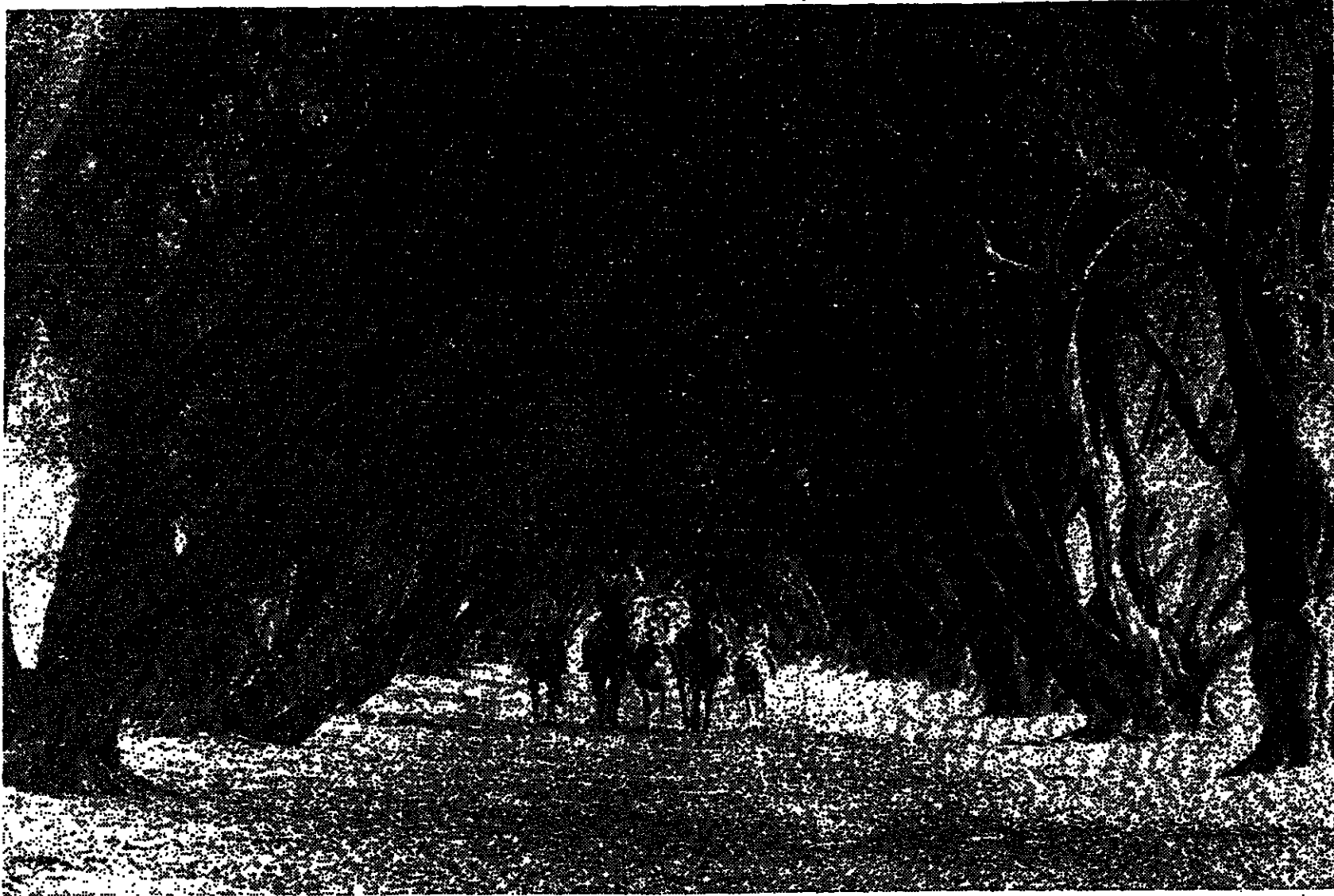
Mrs Skirton and her baby, which weighed 2lb 10oz, were taken to the Royal Women's Hospital where Dr Cliff Flower, the director of medical services, said Mrs Skirton was in a reasonable condition, but was exhausted from both the birth and the long flight. The baby was under special care and receiving oxygen as required.

The Skirtons, who met in Australia when Mr Skirton needed hospital treatment for an injured hand while working on a sheep station, have been married for eight years.

At home in Bristol Dr John Hughes-Gaines, Mrs Skirton's doctor, said: "I am absolutely delighted. I would think this now means she can go for chemotherapy and radiation therapy for her cancer."

Neighbours on the Whitechurch housing estate, Bristol, where the Skirtons have their home in Rookery Way, helped to raise the money to send Mrs Skirton to Australia. Her colleagues at the hospital gave £1,000 from their nurses' fund.

Her best friend and colleague, Mrs Jan Pope, said: "It really was all worth while. We were praying that Sheryl would make it to Australia and have the baby. It has been a success."



Sussex avenue of oaks faces the axe

The famous avenue of Mediterranean oaks at Worthing in Sussex, which has once more proved that few things can stir an Englishman's wrath more than a threatened tree (David Hewson writes).

The 150-year-old drive of flex which once formed the avenue to the entrance of Goring Hall has been badly affected by an incurable and terminal disease, ganoderma. But when Worthing Council commissioned a survey which said that at least 77 of the 240 trees needed felling, they reckoned without the wrath of local residents.

Even the Queen Mother, whose family, the Bowes-Lyons, used to live on the estate, has now entered the Goring flex lists. In a letter to one of the campaigners, her private secretary, Sir Martin Gilliat, said that the Queen Mother had asked him "to inquire of the relevant authority as to the necessity for the rather drastic step which you mention in your letter".

Mr Byron Wynne-Davies, a local surgeon prominent in the campaign to preserve the trees, conceded that more than 20 needed to be felled, but

questioned whether the rest were as dangerous as the council claims. "As a surgeon I see people every day who are injured by falling over pavements but I've yet to see anybody injured by a tree."

A rather resigned deputy borough engineer to the council, Mr Jeffrey Greenway, observed: "I believe the Romans used to chop off the ears of messengers with bad news. I'm afraid times haven't changed much."

Photograph: Harry Kerr

Footprints led to secret rooms

Continued from page 1

But it was when plugs with cables leading through the ceiling were found by accident four months later, that the scale of the sleep-in became apparent.

After a watch was kept on the area footprints were discovered on the floorboards leading to the bedrooms.

"When we removed the bedding we found 12 parcels of sheets and an alarm clock showing the right time."

Mr Hughes said when Mr Haigh was shown the bedding he looked absolutely as-

tounded and said: "It's amazing what you can find when you look."

The tribunal heard the three foremen denied being involved in the night sleep-in.

But Mr Robert Smith, for Plessey Semiconductors Ltd, which employs 520 people at Swindon, said the three were in responsible positions and were guilty of conduct that justified instant dismissal.

"They were either involved in sleeping when they should have been working or, if they weren't sleeping themselves they knew that workers were sleeping when they should

have been working, or even if the foremen were not themselves involved it was their responsibility to make it known to management that the practice was occurring."

One of the dismissed foremen, Mr Cooper, said workers had been sleeping on the night shift at the Plessey factory for more than 16 years.

"We thought if we admitted to management we knew about it and had done nothing, we would have lost our jobs. There was nothing we could do."

The hearing continues today.

Britain cautious over typhoid source claim

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The outbreak of typhoid among British holidaymakers who had been on the island of Kos was caused by a waiter at the Ramira Beach Hotel, who is a "healthy carrier" of the disease, the Greek Health Ministry said yesterday.

Miss Theodorou Stefanou, director of the ministry's public health department, said the carrier had been dismissed as soon as tests disclosed his condition.

"We have known this for

some time, but we could not be sure until we had ruled out all other possibilities from the study of all the facts concerning the victims."

The carrier is a Greek male, who lives in Athens.

● LONDON: The Department of Health said the news was encouraging but not conclusive (the Press Association reports). It wants more information before it can accept that the waiter was the source of the outbreak.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

New exhibitions

The Call of the Sea. Now and Then, including paintings by Charles Norman Longbottom, Chichester House Gallery, High Street, Ditching, Sussex: Tues to Sat 11 to 1, 2.30 to 5 (until Aug 27).
Marine art by Peter Monamy, Pallant House Gallery, 9 North Pallant, Chichester: Tues to Sat 10 to 5.30 (until Aug 27).
Walsall Festival art and photographic exhibition, E.M. Flint Gallery, Walsall: Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 4.45 (until Aug 27).

Photographs by Stuart Roy, Riverside Theatre New University of Ulster, Coleraine: Mon to Sat 10 to 7 (until Aug 20).

Castles in Gwent, Newport Museum and Art Gallery, John Frost Square: Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 9.30 to 4 (until Sept 24).
West Kent Brass Rubbing Centre, Rochester Cathedral Crypt: Mon to Sat 10.30 to 5 (until Aug 31).
Work of Hereward Hayes, Tredegar, Falmouth Art Gallery: Mon to Fri 10 to 1, 2 to 4.30 (until Oct 31).

Unique aircraft, Museum of Flight, East Fortune Airfield, North Berwick, E. Lothian: daily 10 to 4 (until Aug 31).

Landscape in Britain 1850-1950, Mappin Art Gallery, Eaton Park, Sheffield: Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until Aug 28).

Paper and metal by Wally Gilbert and Sue Carney, studio jeweller and printmaker, Stafford Museum and Art Gallery, The Green: Tues to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 4 (until Aug 27).
Arts and crafts, Prescott Gallery, Croxley, Banbury: Wed to Sun 10 to 5 (until Sept 4).

Cirencester and conflict: The home front during the world wars, Cirencester Museum, Cirencester: Mon to Sat 10 to 6, Sun 2 to 6 (until Sept 27).

A Quick Look at Modern Art, Portsmouth City Museum, Museum Road: Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30 (until Aug 30).

Master Class: paintings by Robert Scott Lauder's pupils, National Gallery of Scotland, The Mound, Edinburgh: Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until Oct 2).

Heather Spence: the nineteenth century. The Manor House, Castle Yard, Blyth: Tues to Sun 10 to 6 (until Sept 15).

Impediment and Dangerous to Build: History of the Old Town Hall, Market Square, City Museum, Market Square, Lancaster: Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (until Sept 15).

Drawings and large paintings of Dorset, by John Hubbard, Dorset County Museum, High Street, West Dorchester: Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 1, 2 to 5 (until Oct 1).

Riches underfoot: Natural resources of Dorset, Dorset County Museum, Moorside Road, Bournemouth: Tues to Sun 10 to 5 (until Sept 11).

Talks, lectures
Douglas Dunn read his own poems, Mappin Art Gallery, Weston Park, Sheffield, 7.15.

Rodin, sculptures in bronze, Portsmouth City Museum, Museum Road, 12.30.

Music
Recital by Nigel Kennedy (violin) and Peter Pennington (piano), Sutton Place, near Guildford, Surrey, 7.30.

Organ recital by Richard Francis Herford Cathedral, 11.5.

Organ recital by Peter Backhouse, St Mary's Cathedral, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh, 8.

Concert of baroque music, Prior Park College, Bath, 8.

Organ recital by Charles Callahan, Bath Abbey, 8.

Recital by David Crowther (recorder) and Joan Crowther (contralto), Lincoln Minster, 12.30.

Walks
Georgian Ayr and Tower of St John, meet Town Hall Ayr, 2pm.

General
Edinburgh Antiques Fair, Roxburgh Hotel, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, 11 to 9 (last day).

Elvaston Castle Country Show, Country Park off Borrowash Road, Elvaston, Derby, 2 to 6 today, 11 to 6 tomorrow.

Muhammad Ali at Funnarama '83 for children Bingley Hall, Broad Street, Birmingham, 2.30 to 5.

House and gardens open at Bishopthorpe Palace, home of the Archbishop of York, Bishopthorpe: 10 to 12, 2 to 4.30.

New books - hardback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:
A History of Industrial Design, by Edward Lucie-Smith (Phaidon, £20).
Images of the Downs, by John Mosley and Caroline Hillier (Macmillan, £9.95).
Inconstant Flight, by Elizabeth Talbot (Chatto & Windus, £7.95); paperback £3.95.
Maret, by Georges Bataille (Macmillan, £18).
Music in the New World, by Charles Hamm (Norton, £19.95).
Poetics in Economic Theory, by Michael Howard (Macmillan, £12; paperback £3.95).
Shishou and Other Stories, by Bobbie Ann Mason (Chatto & Windus, £7.95); paperback £3.95.
The Other Hundred Years War, Japan's bid for supremacy, 1841-2041, by Russell Braddon (Collins, £10.95).
The Vatican and Its Treasures, edited by Maurizio Fagiolo dell'Arco (The Bodley Head, £20).
The Last Hero: Wild Bill Donovan, by Anthony Cave Brown (Michael Joseph, £16.95).

The papers

"Unemployment is the cloud that won't go away, even in this finest of summers", the Daily Mirror says. "There may be several solutions, but they will be hard to find. The Department of the Environment has said that it is not looking for them."

The Wall Street Journal commented yesterday on "the deal Britain's Conservative Government cut last week with the London Stock Exchange". The paper said the "rule of vote" would continue to protect its members by sacrificing the public's interest; it would "remain uncompetitive, keep out its future nose to spite its current face".

Reselling electricity

The Central Office of Information advises that by law, a landlord who sells electricity to his tenants must not charge more than the maximum resale rate determined by the Area Electricity Board. The Department of Energy has published a booklet called "Reselling Electricity". A guide for tenants and landlords, which applies in most cases where electricity is sold for domestic use. To get a copy, write to: Distribution Unit, Information Division, Department of Energy, Thames House, South, Millbank, London SW1P 4QJ.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	29.30	27.75
Austria Sch	83.00	79.00
Belgium Fr	1.99	1.52
Canada \$	14.95	14.26
Denmark Kr	16.83	16.43
Finland Mk	12.45	11.90
France Fr	4.15	3.95
Germany DM	137.00	128.00
Greece Dr	11.55	10.90
Hong Kong \$	1.21	1.25
India Rupee	2460.00	2340.00
Italy Lira	384.00	364.00
Japan Yen	4.64	4.42
Netherlands Gld	11.59	11.02
Norway Kr	187.00	177.00
Portugal Esc	209.00	200.00
South Africa Rd	225.50	218.50
Spain Ptas	16.83	16.43
Sweden Kr	12.12	11.62
Switzerland Fr	3.37	3.20
USA \$	1.53	1.48
Yugoslavia Dnr	157.00	147.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclay Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 334.7
London: The FT Index closed up 3.4 at 724.7.

Roads

London and South-east: M3 Repairs at Sunbury and M25 southbound at junction 7 (Basingstoke) - diversions. A41: Temporary signals at Kings Langley and Hemel Hempstead. M4: Lane closed London bound at Heston services area.

Wales and West: M5: Northbound carriageway shared between junctions 8 (M50 junction) and 9 (A58). A46: Roadworks west of Carmarthen, Dyfed, St Clears. A483: Temporary lights at Ammanford, Dyfed.

Midlands: M6: Lane closures from junctions 29 (M1) to 30 (Rothwell). M6: Lane closures between junctions 25 (A49 Wigston) and 27 (A5209 Wigton/Stansted).

North: M62: One carriageway shared between junctions 29 (M1) to 30 (Rothwell). M6: Lane closures between junctions 25 (A49 Wigston) and 27 (A5209 Wigton/Stansted).

Scotland: M8: Westbound carriageway shared E of junction 6 (Airdrie). A7: Single lane only, temporary lights south of Selkirk. M9: Northbound carriageway shared between junctions 5 and 7 (Falkirk to Kincardine Bridge).

Information supplied by the AA.

Stamp discount

The Post Office's cut-price stamp book goes on sale today. The book contains 10 first class (16p) stamps costs £1.45, a saving of 13p, and is available until September 20.

Pollen forecast

	Pollen count	Peak times
Aberdeen	high	3 to 6 pm
Belfast	high	3 to 6 pm
Birmingham	high	3 to 6 pm
Bristol	high	3 to 6 pm
Cardiff	high	3 to 6 pm
Edinburgh	high	3 to 6 pm
Glasgow	high	3 to 6 pm
London	high	3 to 6 pm
Manchester	high	3 to 6 pm
Newcastle	high	3 to 6 pm
Nottingham	high	3 to 6 pm
Sheffield	high	3 to 6 pm
Southampton	high	3 to 6 pm
Swansea	high	3 to 6 pm
Teesside	high	3 to 6 pm
Warrington	high	3 to 6 pm
Worcester	high	3 to 6 pm

Weather

A ridge of high pressure over N Britain will persist with a slow-moving, thundery low expected over France.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, SW, central S England, Channel Islands, Western Isles: Cloud, scattered thunderstorms expected to develop; wind NE, moderate, locally fresh; max temp 21 to 24C (70 to 75F).

East Angles, E Midlands, E and central, N England: Dry, cloudy at times, some sunny intervals; wind NE, light to moderate; max temp 20 to 22C (68 to 72F).

W Midlands, N Wales, NW England, Lake District: Dry sunny periods; wind light; max temp 20 to 22C (68 to 72F).

Ile of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Northern Ireland: Highly variable, sun, dry with sunny periods; wind variable; light; max temp 20 to 22C (68 to 72F).

NE Scotland, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: Mostly early and late, sunny periods developing; wind variable; light; very warm in places; max temp 20 to 22C (68 to 72F).

NE, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: Mostly cloudy, fog patches. Local drizzle, more persistent rain or drizzle in places later; wind SW, moderate; max temp 15 to 18C (59 to 65F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Mostly dry and warm, but cool with a tide rain at times in northern Scotland.

SEA PASSAGES: North Sea, Strait of Dover: Wind NE, fresh or strong, or rough. English Channel (E): Wind NE, fresh or strong, isolated thundery showers; sea rough. St George's Channel: Wind NE, moderate or fresh. Sea moderate, Irish Sea: Wind NE, moderate; sea slight.

Sun rises: 5.37am
Sun sets: 5.43pm
Moon rises: 7.27am
Moon sets: 5.55pm
First quarter: August 15.

Lighting-up time

London 8.04 pm to 6.00 am
Bristol 8.13 pm to 5.15 am
Aberdeen 8.19 pm to 5.10 am
Penzance 8.21 pm to 5.35 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, degree F
Belfast 18 64
Birmingham 20 68
Bristol 20 68
Cardiff 20 68
Edinburgh 18 64
Glasgow 20 68
London 20 68
Manchester 20 68
Newcastle 20 68
Nottingham 20 68
Sheffield 20 68
Southampton 20 68
Swansea 20 68
Teesside 20 68
Warrington 20 68
Worcester 20 68

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Southampton, 28C (82F); lowest day temp: Falkirk, 12C (54F); highest night temp: London, 16C (61F); lowest night temp: Falkirk, 10C (50F).
Today: Highest day temp: Southampton, 28C (82F); lowest day temp: Falkirk, 12C (54F); highest night temp: London, 16C (61F); lowest night temp: Falkirk, 10C (50F).

The Guatemala coup

The day the general's luck finally ran out

Mexico City: "A de facto government can count on nothing, the whole situation can change from one day to the next." Those were General Efraim Rios Montt's remarkably perceptive words in the last interview he gave the press, last Friday in Guatemala City, before resigning as Guatemalan President.

General Oscar Mejia Victores, his Defence Minister, came to power on Monday, in the same way the former president had done, 16 months ago, in a military coup.

Nevertheless, when General Rios Montt talked to *The Times* and two American newspapers last week, he did so with little sense that his fall was imminent, however aware he might have been of the theoretical precariousness of his hold on power.

The general had survived a coup attempt on June 29, when, as on Monday, the National Palace was surrounded by tanks and troops. Many political analysts in Guatemala felt then that his hold on the presidency had been strengthened as a result of the crisis, even if his power had apparently been curtailed.

Dr Mario Castanon, the leader of the National Renovation Party (PNR), one of Guatemala's more prominent political figures who believed, however regretfully, that on June 29 the general had secured the continued support of the Army.

"Rios Montt has lost the support of all but 10 per cent of the Guatemalan population," Dr Castanon said last week, "but while he's got the Army on his side he's got the support of the people."

The Guatemalan Army has ruled Guatemala since a CIA-inspired coup deposed the duly elected President Jacobo Arbenz in 1954. And it was the Army, inevitably, that brought retired General Rios Montt to power in a younger officers' coup on March 23 last year.

Then the general had the support of virtually every sector of Guatemalan society, including the powerful, extreme right-wing "National Liberation Movement (MLN), which was to become his bitterest foe.

Senior Mario Sandoval, the MLN leader, told *The Times* last week that the moral tone General Rios Montt brought to his first days in office were warmly welcomed by the

population accustomed to corruption and death squad terror.

The general, a fervent born-again Christian, managed to sustain his popular appeal until the end of last year. Then everything changed. "A politician has never lost so much popularity in so little time," Senior Sandoval said.

General Rios Montt's initial success rested on the spectacular way in which he managed, almost overnight, to eliminate the activities of the right-wing death squads which had operated with impunity in Guatemala.

"But power went to his head, he revelled in the virtually autocratic sway he held over Guatemala," remarked Senior Alejandro Maldonado, a Christian Democrat presidential candidate and a former friend of the general.

During the course of this year General Rios Montt contrived to antagonize most sectors of Guatemalan society, including the political parties, private enterprise and the Catholic Church.

More importantly, the general antagonized the Military High Command.

When Army tanks surrounded the National Palace on June 29, one condition the generals and colonels imposed on General Rios Montt, if he was to remain in power, was that he should remove his six young advisers, restoring the traditional Army hierarchy.

According to diplomatic sources in Guatemala City, there were a further three conditions on which the Army said he could stay in power: he should give the MLN the right to a lower profile in his government; he should set a date for elections; and he should defer the imposition of value added tax.

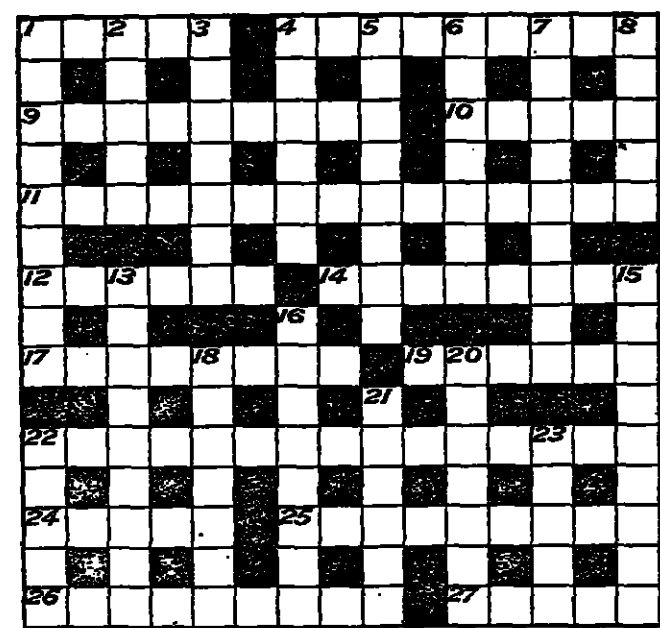
On all counts the general failed. But the final straw that precipitated the coup, was the imposition of a 10 per cent value added tax, the first time VAT had been introduced in Guatemala.

Such a tax, a diplomat observed, would hit hard at the pockets of officers' wives, already deprived of many of their accustomed imported luxuries by the falling value of the quetzal, the Guatemalan currency.

And so on Monday, General Rios Montt's luck finally ran out.

John Carlin

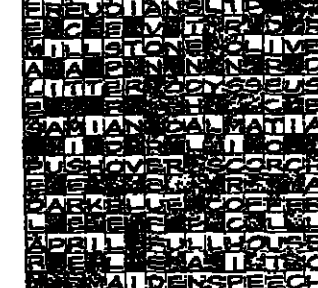
The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,204



ACROSS

- Simon the sorcerer returned money, including silver (5).
- Natural herb not a throwback (9).
- This system of economy is the solution to Annie's problem (9).
- They're very hard, heading off garden pests (5).
- Where line should be drawn by moderate (6-2-3-4).
- Character study? (6).
- Encouraging a person holding race (8).
- How one of the little folk might close a letter to you personally (8).
- Member of life-class is a sucker (6).
- Not following this is of no importance (15).
- In Kerala this striker is held by police (5).
- Noel has a mild sort of tablet (9).
- Slatey home of former imperial officer (9).
- Rounds badly sung after opening of refrain (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,203



CONCISE CROSSWORD, PAGE 6

DOWN

- Chap and I take boat, as arranged, to Lake province (8).
- Tolerant of Tennant's eccentricity (7).
- Gods of the theatre seen in high church surroundings (9).
- Smelt unlike GKC's "fallen sons of Eve" (5).
- Maybe turn about set-up for crops (9).
- Sporting connexions at the seaside (4-5).
- Council member named tree on island (8).
- Flier in bus broken down on the way (3-4).
- Make invalid artist get up to see this eclipse (7).
- This is your best suit (6).
- But was Johnson less industrious with his paperwork? (5).
- To